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25 killed in Manila plane crash

Twin-engine Beechcraft slams into a Japanese home

MANILA, May 18, (AP) - A twin-engine commuter plane with 21 people aboard crashed after takeoff this morning and exploded after hitting a house south of Manila's airport. Witnesses said there was no sign of survivors.

The witnesses said a Japanese man, his Filipino wife and two children were in the house, which burst into flames. Employees of the home in suburban Paranaque said the four residents were asleep in their bedroom and were feared dead.

The crash occurred one week after a Philippine Airlines Boeing 737 with 119 people aboard exploded and caught fire while waiting to take off from the domestic airport on a flight to the central Philippine city of Iloilo.

Eight people were killed but the cause of the incident has not been determined. The Beechcraft, propeller-driven aircraft, owned by the Aerolift Corp., took off about 6:25 am today (2225 GMT Thursday) for the Mindanao island town of Surigao when air controllers saw it was not gaining altitude.

Controller Francisco Reyes said the pilot radioed that he was returning to the domestic airport.

"When I noticed he could not gain altitude, I immediately advised the (local) fire station," Reyes said. "I said, 'get out there immediately because the plane is going to crash.'"

Aerolift spokesman Benjie Torres said the plane carried 19 passengers and two crew.

Witnesses said the plane nose-dived into the home in Paranaque, about one kilometre (a half mile) south of the airport, and exploded in flames.

A maid working at the house told radio station DZBB she heard a huge explosion upon impact.

"I was cleaning the house when suddenly I heard a blast," said the maid, who gave her name only as Marlin. "I ran out immediately" with two other maids.

Raymond Lebunao, 14, who worked in the house as an errand boy, said the plane slammed into the couple's bedroom, where they were sleeping with their children.

Witnesses said debris and parts of charred bodies were scattered in the area.

US threatens pullout

Talks on bases fail

MANILA, May 18, (Reuters) - The United States bluntly warned today it could pull out of its military facilities in the Philippines unless Manila based its alliance with Washington on more than money.

In tough negotiations, the two sides failed to settle the future of American military bases in the Philippines. However, they solved a conflict over compensation and agreed to hold further talks on the future of their entire political and security relationship.



Two dancers
Two dancers from the ballet perform during their final rehearsal at the Cairo opera house on May 17. The ballet was due to perform on a specially designed stage at the Gliza pyramid, but was transferred to the opera house after a dispute between the Egyptian and Belgian organizers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Blast kills 10 in Lahore

Ten people were killed and 54 injured when a bomb exploded among cinema crowds and shoppers in the Pakistani city of Lahore on Friday, police said.

The bomb had been planted in a wooden box by a rice seller's stall and was detonated by remote control as police arrived to investigate, the FPI news agency reported.

The blast tore through the Bhatti gate area of the city centre as crowds thronged the area on the Muslim weekend. (Reuters)

France plans sex law

France plans to make sexual harassment in the workplace a criminal offence.

Men who bugger female colleagues for sexual favours could face two years in jail or a fine of 2,000 francs (\$350), Michele Andre, secretary of state for women's rights, said on Thursday.

Militants fight in Egypt

Seven people were injured and 46 arrested in Egypt yesterday when police broke up two fundamentalist Muslim demonstrations against the government.

The national news agency Mena reported that four policemen and three members of the militants' outlawed Jihad organisation were injured in a clash at Qena, in upper Egypt.

Plan to protect monuments

An international team of experts announced plans in Cairo yesterday to build a wall around the pyramids and Sphinx to help save them from tourists and urban sprawl.

Asteroid hit in Caribbean

Scientists said on Thursday they had found the place where a giant asteroid is believed to have crashed into the earth some 65 million years ago, ending the age of dinosaurs.

Highlight of game

So exciting!

TORONTO, May 18, (Reuters) - A couple who made love in a hotel room in full sight of a packed baseball stadium have forced the hotel to warn guests they can be seen by the crowd.

The Skydome hotel, built inside Toronto's new stadium, has 70 rooms that give a direct view of the playing field. The couple's sexual performance was a highlight of Tuesday's game between the local Blue Jays and the Seattle Mariners.

"There isn't a more exciting way to watch a baseball game, but for some people it's more exciting than others," hotel manager Ray Thompson said yesterday.

"What our guests do behind closed doors is their own business as long as it's not criminal and there's no damage. But when there are witnesses the guests are subject to immediate eviction and possible criminal charges."



Murder in Meham
The body of Amir Singh, an independent candidate lies on the road in the north Indian town of Meham in Haryana state on May 17. Singh's murder loomed the second postponement of a by-election to the state assembly of Haryana. (Reuters wirephoto) (Story Page 7)

Singh bids to calm caste conflicts

NEW DELHI, May 18, (Reuters) - Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh flew today to his political base in Fatehpur, where an outcaste woman was raped and burned alive this week, to deal with the volatile issue of caste conflict.

Last month two brothers belonging to Singh's aristocratic caste of Thakurs were arrested in Fatehpur, a northern farming area by the Ganges river, for burning to death one of their Harijan, or "untouchable", farm workers.

Police said the worker refused to turn his wife over to his bosses for sex.

"The untouchables are at the bottom of India's complex caste system and are often exploited ruthlessly. But they make up about 16 percent of the country's population of 820 million and are courted by major political parties for their votes."

The opposition Congress Party, trying to get political mileage out of horrifying incidents in Singh's constituency, walked out of Parliament yesterday, demanding a statement from the prime minister.

Iranian policies Ahmad criticises

TEHRAN, May 18, (Reuters) - The son of the late Ayatollah Khomeini has criticised Iranian leaders for confusing the people with contradictory policies towards the West.

Ahmad Khomeini, calling for realistic and honest policies, said many politicians were making revolutionary statements from fear of being branded as liberals - rather than from a cool assessment of Iran's best interests.

The Islamic republic, he said, had not found the correct path and the people, torn between two ruling factions, were being disillusioned by unkept promises.

"The people understand that there are no well thought-out plans. On the one hand there is the slogan of fighting Western culture. On the other hand, huge economic agreements are signed with the West..."

"All this robs the people of confidence," he said.

His remarks - made to Interior Ministry officials on Wednesday and published in the newspaper Abrar yesterday - highlighted the problems facing President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

To normalise life in Iran after more than a decade of revolutionary change and war against Iraq, Rafsanjani seeks better relations with the West to gain access to money and technology.

But hardliners among Iran's influential Muslim clergy oppose closer ties with the West as a threat to the revolution's purity.

Ahmad said Iran's need for economic contacts with the West made its fight against Western culture artificial because economic issues could not be separated from cultural ones.

Rafsanjani, apparently reacting to an opposition open letter demanding political freedoms, attacked liberals, nationalists and other dissidents.

Kashmir waits for UN pledge

Benazir drums up support

AMMAN, May 18, (Agencies) - Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived today in Jordan, the fourth leg of a regional tour to drum up support for Islamabad's stand in the conflict with India over Kashmir.

In an arrival statement to the official Jordan news agency, Petra, Bhutto described the situation in Kashmir as tragic and called for self-determination for the Muslim majority there.

"The situation in Kashmir is a tragedy and it should be solved quickly before escalation of the conflict," she said.

"The solution lies in the fulfilment of the international commitment to support the exercise of the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir," she added.

Bhutto said that she will discuss with Jordanian officials "regional and international issues but our attention will be focused on the serious situation in Kashmir and its dangers on the Indo-Pakistan relations."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other cabinet members welcomed Bhutto on her arrival from Syria, where she had talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

Bhutto said Kashmir was still waiting for fulfilment of a pledge made to it at the United Nations more than 40 years ago by India, Pakistan and the rest of the world community that it would be able to exercise its right to self-determination.

The people of Kashmir have risen up to overthrow Indian rule," said Bhutto. "The solution lies in honouring the commitment made by the international community."

Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh accused Bhutto yesterday of creating war hysteria and said his country was prepared to meet any threat.

He made the charge in Parliament shortly after his Junior Defence Minister, Raja Ramanna, said Pakistan was keeping its troops, tanks and air force on high alert on a border where the two countries have fought three wars since 1947.

Denying allegations that India was generating war hysteria, Singh said Pakistan was doing so by rebuffing Indian peace bids and by arming Muslim militants.

In Islamabad, a Pakistan Defence Ministry spokesman dismissed the Indian charges.

"This situation is being misinterpreted," said the spokesman, who declined identification. "Our troops are merely on a routine summer exercise."

He had no information about what Singh meant when he said India had taken steps to deal with the situation.

In Syria yesterday Pakistan premier said: "I propose to inform the leaders of Syria about the uprising in Kashmir and ... threats to peace in the sub-continent," she told reporters.

At her last stop, Ankara, Bhutto said she had been assured of Turkish support in Cairo next month when Pakistan asks Islamic foreign ministers to back its calls for self-determination in Kashmir.

The government of Pakistan believes that war is not inevitable. Nonetheless, the statements made by (Continued on Page 2)



Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran (left) and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inspect a guard of honour at Amman military airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mystery death of Briton in Iraq

Body found in hotel

BAGHDAD, May 18, (Agencies) - A British engineer was found dead in his hotel room under mysterious circumstances, the official Iraqi News Agency reported today.

The man was discovered on Wednesday in his Novotel Hotel room and doctors have yet to determine his cause of death, according to the INA report, which quoted an unidentified spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior.

The agency identified the man as J. Gordon Glass but had no details about his age or family.

The British embassy said it had no immediate comment at this stage of the investigation.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London confirmed the death of Glass. The British spokesman said the engineer died in Baghdad on May 16, and was apparently mugged and robbed two days earlier.

"It is possible that he died as a result of his injuries, some of which were to his head," the British spokesman said, adding that the Iraqi authorities, "have offered every assistance and have expressed their concern."

The embassy was immediately informed and it asked a British doctor working in Iraq to join the Iraqi team investigating his death at the Baghdad morgue.

Results of the examination will be made public when the team finishes its investigation, INA said.

The agency said Glass, an employee of Graham Johnson Machinery of Coventry, England, arrived May 2 to fix machinery for an Iraqi plant belonging to the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation.

INA said he was accompanied by two other British engineers, but did not identify the nature of the Iraq plant or the kind of machinery under repair.

There are 2,500-3,000 British engineers and businessmen in Iraq and many work in plants belonging to the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation, Iraq's prime weapons developer.

Most kept an especially low profile during demonstrations against the British embassy since relations between the two countries soured over the past two months.

Iraqi hanged Farzod Bazofi, a London-based Iranian born correspondent for the Observer weekly, on spying charges March 15. The British ambassador, withdrawn in protest, returned to his post yesterday.

Relations further deteriorated after Britain stopped two shipments said were headed for Iraq's arms industry - one a super cannon and the other electronic parts that could be used in the trigger for a nuclear weapon.

A US official met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad yesterday and Iraq sought to recover from Greece steel pipes allegedly meant for a giant "super cannon," official radio and other sources said.

Iraq's Ambassador to Greece, Fatah Al Kbedhaji, said Iraqi Vice-President Tahir Yasin Ramadan wrote Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis to ask him to return 29.5 ton steel pipe which Greek customs seized April 19 en route to Iraq.

Greece said the pipe was part of the world's largest gun which Iraq was assembling.

He said that if Greece did not return the steel pipe, diplomatic relations between Athens and Baghdad would be adversely affected.

State-owned Baghdad Radio reported that Richard Hass, a national security aide to President Bush, met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and that the talks dealt with "development of the situation in the region as well as a number of issues of mutual interest."

■ Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan today said an Iraq-Iranian summit is needed for the interest of both countries and disclosed that Iraq has confirmed information on an Israeli plan to strike at Iraq.



Art purchaser

A Japanese businessman who had sold all his art work to help his ailing company confirmed on Friday that he had returned to the market this week to purchase the world's two single most expensive paintings - one by Van Gogh and another by Renoir.

Industrialist Ryoei Saito (above) had he had bought Renoir's "Au Moulin de la Galette" on Thursday for \$78.1 million at an auction at Sotheby's in New York. (See Page 6)

Accord to suspend Kuwait University strike

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna) - Kuwait University Director Shuaib Abdulla Shuaib said yesterday that the National Union of Kuwaiti Students - Kuwait University branch - had agreed to suspend the strike intended for Saturday (today).

Head of the administrative board for the union, Nasser Al Enzi yesterday said that the union and the university administration have officially agreed on a deal to end the four-day strike.

Al Enzi added that the agreement was reached following a series of meetings between a union delegation and Dr Shuaib.

The deal calls for the readmittance of students who were expelled or suspended during the first and second semesters of the 1989-90 academic year and also those who need a grade point average (GPA) of B or less to be lifted off the probation list. But this condition does not apply to students who exceeded the period allowed for cessation of studies or who do not stick to graduation requirements.

"And hence, we appeal to all students who were expelled or suspended during the past two semesters to report to the students affairs committee of the students affairs secretariat to benefit from this deal," Al Enzi underlined.

Also students union and the university administration agreed to form a joint committee to examine articles 10 and 13 of the courses statute and proposals raised towards them.

The deals also call for disregarding the no shows and holding new examinations instead of those held on May 8 and May 14-16.

The council of Kuwait University had appealed to the students to adhere to the campus norms and resort to constructive dialogue to resolve problems.

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Aircraft rests on roof

The tail of a twin-engine Philippine domestic aircraft rests on the roof of a house while its fuselage was burned when it crashed into a house in a Manila suburb, killing all 21 people on board and four inside the house. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boat people confab

Deadlocked

MANILA, May 18, (Reuters): An international conference on Indo-Chinese boat people was deadlocked over the issue of forcible repatriation to Vietnam, the chairman of the meeting said today.

Sergio Vieira de Mello, regional head for Asia and Oceania of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, told reporters at the end of the 28-nation meeting that failure to solve the issue threatened the programme of granting temporary asylum to boat people in Southeast Asia.

"The longer-term viability of the plan of action depended on the resolution of the problem of those determined (by a screening process) not to be (political) refugees," he said in a summary of the results of the two-day conference.

The screening process is designed to separate genuine political refugees from people seeking more prosperous lives.

The United States and Vietnam oppose forcible repatriation of boat people, but Hong Kong and Southeast Asian nations warned yesterday they would close their doors to new arrivals unless fresh steps were taken to solve an "intolerable" problem.

"Several participants expressed the view a further meeting of the steering committee would only serve a meaningful purpose if progress could be achieved on the outstanding issues," said De Mello.

Allan Jury, the head of the American delegation at the conference, said in an interview that the United States remained opposed to the "involuntary return" people who had fled Vietnam, but he would "convey the beliefs of Southeast Asian states" to Washington.

De Mello admitted he felt the asylum process was in danger of total breakdown, but claimed the meeting was "extremely useful" in taking up issues "where we have lacked agreement so far."

But he said, "there was a serious risk that first asylum would be abandoned through unilateral measures."

The first asylum states of Asia have given temporary refuge to boat people until they can be resettled in developed countries.

US base

(Continued from Page 1)

cement friendships or confirm alliances.

"When it comes to Filipino honour and sovereignty, my bedrock belief is that in the final analysis, money is not the measure."

The joint statement did not mention when the next round of talks would be held.

But it said the discussions "could include consideration of a new agreement concerning friendship, co-operation and security on the basis of a new relationship between the Philippines and the US in the light of the changing global environment."

But President George Bush warned on Wednesday that the bases, which employ 78,000 Filipinos, were not essential for protecting US interests in the Pacific. He said he was studying alternatives.

At the start of the latest discussions, Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus served formal notice that the present lease on the bases would end on September 16, 1991.

He said it signalled the ending of the "uneven days of lingering colonialism. Henceforth, we shall march forward with our friends abreast, not in tandem."

Hours before the latest round of talks ended, four men in a speeding taxi fired two rifle grenades at US offices in Manila. Only one grenade exploded, on the fourth-floor window ledge of the building that houses US Thomas Jefferson Library, causing "minimal damage to property," the US embassy said.

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

the Indian leaders do create an apprehension about their intentions," Bhutto said at a news conference at the end of her one-day visit to Turkey.

"We have responded by intensifying our efforts for the maintenance of peace," said Bhutto.

Bhutto said she had informed the Turkish leaders of Pakistan's efforts to initiate a "political dialogue" with India.

She said Pakistan had already proposed to India that both countries redeploy their troops to peacetime locations.

Saudi Arabia has denied Iranian reports alleging that Saudi Arabia has pledged to provide military backing to Pakistan in case of war with India over the Kashmir issue.

A Saudi official source last night underlined in a statement to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the distinguished Saudi-Pakistan relations and the continuous co-operation between the two countries in various fields.

Authorities recovered from various parts of Srinagar the bodies of a Hindu and Muslim killed by Islamic separatists guiding a four-month-old popular movement for independence, police said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plant vaccine against pests: A kind of vaccine that protects plants against pests can reduce reliance on hazardous pesticides, the vaccine's developer says.

The vaccine involves the insertion of bacteria called endophytes into a plant's seeds. The bacteria have been genetically engineered to carry a naturally occurring protein that kills insects, said Peter S. Carlson, who developed the vaccine. (AP)

Five killed in violence: A ceremony to promote peace between two tribes turned violent after participants argued about how the food should be served, and five people were killed and dozens more were wounded in Papua New Guinea.

The Australian Associated Press, which reported the fighting, said yesterday it involved at least 2,000 warriors armed with shotguns, axes, bows and arrows and spears. (AP)

Crocodile attacks woman: Government wildlife officers Thursday began setting traps for a large crocodile which mauled a woman outside the township of Wyndham in northern western Australia state, officials said.

The woman, who was not immediately identified, is a resident of the remote Oombuljuri aboriginal community. She was fishing in marshlands when attacked by the 10-foot (3-metre) crocodile on Wednesday.

The creature grabbed her around the upper body and she suffered deep cuts to her chest.

A spokesman for the Department of Conservation and Land Management told Australian Associated Press the woman escaped after throwing her fishing net over the crocodile's head to distract it. (AP)

'Cleansing' banned to halt Aids: Tribal chiefs in Zambia have banned an ancient spirit-swapping ritual to help stop the spread of Aids, health officials say.

As part of a tribal custom in southern Zambia, a widow is "cleansed" of her husband's death by having sex with his brother. Men whose wives die are expected to arrange a sexual encounter with one of her relatives.

Chiefs in the Chikankata and Monze districts, about 80 miles (128 kms) south of Lusaka, ordered a halt to the practice after they were visited by health officials warning about the dangers of the Aids epidemic, a Health Ministry official said.

Health officials say that such tribal traditions as "cleansing" contributed to the spread of acquired



'Sea Bug'

Paul Greene waves to the camera from his 'Sea Bug' a converted Volkswagen Beetle, during a trial on the Parramatta river. Greene plans to pilot the amphibious vehicle across the dangerous Bass Strait between mainland Australia and the island of Tasmania later this week. (Reuters wirephoto)



Electric cars

Solar powered car designers (left to right) Andrew Heafitz, James Wordan and Diana Brongo stand with Soletrix Corporation's 'Sunrise' (left) and 'Light-speed' (right) electric cars as the cars were debuted in Boston under sunless skies. (Reuters wirephoto)

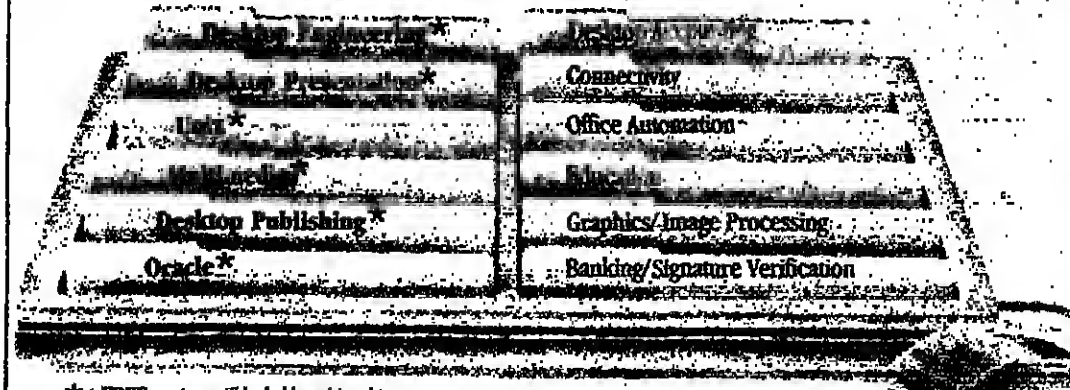
immune deficiency syndrome, "especially, of course, if a spouse died from Aids," the officials said on condition of anonymity.

Zambia has one of the world's highest rates of Aids infection. Up to 20 per cent of the population of 7.5 million people are believed to be infected with the virus that eventually causes the fatal disease. (AP)

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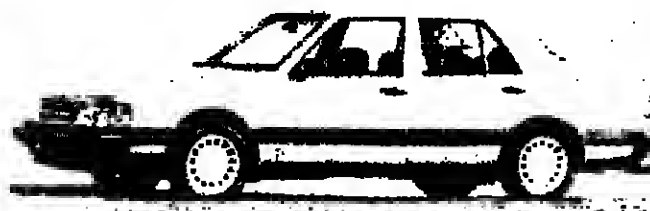
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INTERNATIONAL

Most Helmsley charges dropped

NEW YORK, May 18, (AP) A tax fraud indictment against Leona Helmsley was quashed yesterday by a judge who said state prosecutors were putting the self-styled hotel queen in double jeopardy.

State Supreme Court Justice John Bradley said he dropped 180 of the 188 counts in the indictment because they are similar to those on which Mrs Helmsley was tried in federal court last August.

"The court threw out the heart and soul of the state's case," said Alan Dershowitz, lead lawyer of Mrs Helmsley's legal team. "New evidence will demonstrate that Mrs Helmsley did not evade taxes."

"I'm very happy," Mrs Helmsley, 70, said tearfully as she left court after hearing Bradley's ruling. She suggested that the case against her was brought only because of her prominence.

"They're after my hide," she said. "I'm Leona Helmsley."

"I hold my head high because I know that I am an innocent person falsely accused and terribly maligned," she said.

The federal case related solely to Dunellen Hall, the Helmsleys' mansion in Greenwich, Connecticut. The Helmsleys were charged with furnishing, renovating and operating the estate by charging its expenses to their businesses.

Mrs Helmsley was sentenced to four years in prison and fined \$7.1 million in the federal case. She is appealing the conviction and sentence, maintaining that she in fact overpaid her taxes.

Her husband, real estate billionaire Harry Helmsley, 80, was found incompetent to stand trial in the federal case. He is trying to avoid a state trial on similar grounds.

He has been examined by a psychiatrist, according to Leslie Gersing of the state attorney general's office, and a hearing on the exam results is scheduled for May 23 before Bradley.

The dropped charges all relate to Dunellen Hall and were dealt with in federal case.

Brando's son kills sister's boyfriend

LOS ANGELES, May 18, (Reuters) A distraught Marlon Brando telephoned police to report his daughter's boyfriend, Dag Dorlet, had been shot to death in an argument on his heavily guarded estate, police said yesterday.

Brando's son, Christian Brando, 32, is being held in jail without bail and was expected to be charged today with the murder of Dorlet, a 26-year-old Tahitian, who had been the boyfriend of Cheyenne Brando.

Police allege Christian Brando killed Dorlet with a single shot to the head after a row in which he claimed Dorlet had mistreated Cheyenne, his 20-year-old sister.

"Marlon Brando was distraught, having known the victim and that his son was involved," police Lieutenant Roo Hall said. "He heard the single shot and called the police and the ambulance service."

"Brando was having peaks and valleys in his emotions, but he was very cooperative," Hall added.

"We're not sure Christian was totally sober, but the row doesn't appear to have been the result of some sort of drunk fest," Hall said. Drugs definitely were not involved. Police also said Cheyenne Brando did not appear to have been seriously injured and bore no sign of injuries.

Police seized a pistol apparently used in the shooting as well as four rifles at the estate. "Christian has indicated he was a gun enthusiast," Hall said.

Dorlet, who has described his occupation as welder and artist, had been a guest on the Brando estate for 10 days and there was no indication there had been any trouble between Dorlet and Christian Brando before the shooting, detective Steve Osti said.

Brando, 66, who won Hollywood Oscars for his films "The Godfather" and "On The Waterfront", was in another part of the 12-room house when the shooting took place, Hall said.

Christian Brando is the actor's son by his marriage to his first wife, Anna Kashfi. Cheyenne is his daughter by his third wife, Tarita, who appeared with him in "Mutiny on the Bounty".

Perched on a hillside overlooking Los Angeles, the estate is protected by guards, a video alarm system and barred gates. Brando's nearest neighbour is film star Jack Nicholson.

Christian will be defended by William Kunstler, a civil rights lawyer whose clients have included Martin Luther King and the Chicago Seven in the civil rights disturbances.



Madonna back in 'Vogue'

NEW YORK, May 18, (AP) Madonna and her *Vogue* made it to the number one position Wednesday among best selling single top records in the United States. The hit disc was third a week ago.

The top 10 singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (3) *Vogue* — Madonna (Sire-Warner)
2. (1) *Nothing Compares to You* — Sinead O'Connor (Chrysalis)
3. (5) *All I Wanna Do* — Heart (Capitol)
4. (9) *Alright* — Janet Jackson (A and M)
5. (2) *I Want To Be Rich* — Caloway (Solar)

6. (11) *Hold On* — Wilson Phillips (SDE)

7. (13) *Sendin' All My Love* — Liner (Atlantic)

8. (17) *Reason* — BBD (MCA)

9. (4) *How Can We Be Lovers* — Michael Bolton (Columbia)

10. (8) *What It Takes* — Aerosmith (Geffen)

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) *The Domino Theory* — Steve Wariner (MCA)
2. (3) *W. L. G.* — Cowboy Copas (Mercury)
3. (5) *I Watched It All (On My Radio)* — Lonestar (MCA)
4. (7) *Walking Shoes* — Tanya Tucker (Capitol)
5. (6) *Guardian Angel* — The Judds (RCA)
6. (8) *I Cried My Last Tear* — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia)
7. (16) *Pass It On Down* — Alabama (RCA)
8. (1) *I'm Over You* — Keith Whitley (RCA)
9. (18) *Running With the Wind* — Eddie Rabbitt (Capitol)
10. (11) *She Came From Fort Worth* — Kathy Mattea (Mercury)

And in London, America's *Top 10* pop music, Madonna, was bumped from third place on the British pop chart by Kylie Minogue, idol of Britain's teen set, while a *Madonna* held onto first place with "Vogue".

Great Jumper

A Giant African frog named after a US television host leaped just over 12 feet (3.8m) on Thursday to beat out smaller American competitors and qualify for the finals of the C-Laveras County jumping frog jubilee.

The three-pound (1.35-kg) frog Johnny Carson was one of nine African goliath frogs brought to the frog-jumping contest in this northern California mountain town by exotic animal importer Andy Koffman of Seattle.

The frogs, imported from Cameroon, are so big only three of them fit on the contest's eight-inch (203-mm) starting pad.

That is the basic standard applied to all frogs entered in the contest inspired by 19th century humorist Mark Twain's short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

In the first qualifying round, Johnny Carson covered 12 feet, four and three-quarter inches (3.87 m), beating Ohio Hopper by four inches (102 mm). Johnny Carson is now eligible for the final jumpoffs on Sunday.

Operation

AN AUSTRALIAN eye surgeon performs a cataract operation on Tony, a tiger at Ragunan zoo in Jakarta on May 15. The operation, first of its kind in Indonesia, took an hour. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Janet thrills Tokyo fans

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

LAS VEGAS: An Iranian accountant now living in England came back from the brink of disaster twice Thursday to outlast a Reno, Nevada, poker player and win the \$835,000 first prize in the World Series of Poker.

Mansour Matloubi used an anti-climatic pair of sixes on the final hand to top a pair of fours held by Haze "Taza" Lund and win the final Texas Hold'em event in the competition that crowns the world's poker champion.

The final hand was capped a remarkable comeback that saw Matloubi, playing in his first championship game, twice draw the card he needed to stay in the game on the final draw after he had each time put all his chips into the pot.

"I was dead," Matloubi said. "But when the chips went in every time I had the best hand." (AP)

NEW YORK: Actress Paulette Goddard left New York University more than \$20 million and the papers of her late husband, novelist Erich Maria Remarque, the university said on Thursday.

Miss Goddard, who died April 23 in Switzerland, endowed seven new professorships with \$1.2 million each, NYU president John Brademas said. They are in film, urban planning, creative writing, literature, European studies, languages and political economy.

In addition, her bequest provided three \$1 million scholarships, \$3 million to establish a fund to attract and assist junior faculty and \$7 million for a special endowment, Brademas said.

The university plans to name a Residence Hall for Miss Goddard. (AP)

LONDON: King, the troubled musical about the life of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, is to close on June 2 after a run of just six weeks, the producers announced.

In a statement Wednesday night, they cited bad reviews and the controversy that dogged the production.

"The London Critics' unseemly and damaging reviews of the production, and the continuous and unjustifiable focus on some of the early problems in bringing together the elements of the show, have had the inevitable and obvious effect," the statement said.

The show, about the life of the US civil rights campaigner, took less than £100,000 (£170,000) in advance bookings. British press reports said. The production cost £2.5 million (about \$4.5 million) (AP)

NAIROBI: Three sick donkeys living in a Kenyan courthouse face arrest for disrupting court proceedings, a local justice official warned on Thursday.

Court clerk Joel Siga told the daily *Nation* the animals were a nuisance because they rolled on the ground raising clouds of dust.

The donkeys have been living for the past 18 months in the basement of the law court in Kajiado town, 50 km (31 miles) south of Nairobi. All efforts to chase them away or find their owner proved futile. (Reuters)

BELING: Two Chinese men swapped their wives and the one with the "short, ugly" wife had to throw in a pig and 1,000 roof tiles to elude a deal.

"After haggling" said an edition of the *China Elderly* journal reaching Beijing on Thursday, the two farmers in southern Sichuan province agreed the difference in their wives' beauty was worth 185 yuan (\$40).

"But husband Zhang had no ready cash, so he had to hand over a mother pig and 1,000 roof tiles instead," the newspaper said.

CAIRO: French choreographer Maurice Bejart announced on Wednesday he was giving up his bid to use Egypt's pyramids as a backdrop for an Oriental ballet inspired by Islamic music.

Bejart did not give any reason but workers building a special stage near the Giza pyramids stopped work after complaining they had not been paid.

Bejart, one of the world's foremost choreographers, said he would stage the ballet on Friday, one day later than originally planned, at Cairo's Japanese-built opera house. (Reuters)

WASHINGTON: Raisa Gorbachev will join Barbara Bush in addressing the graduating class at Wellesley College, the White House announced Thursday.

"Mrs Raisa Gorbachev has accepted Mrs Bush's invitation to accompany her to Wellesley" on June 1 during their husbands' summit meetings in Washington, the first lady's press office said.

"Mrs Bush and Mrs Gorbachev will both deliver remarks to the graduating class."

Anna Perez, Mrs Bush's press secretary, said no other joint appearances had yet been planned by the first ladies.

Some 150 students at Wellesley signed a petition last month questioning the choice of Mrs Bush as a commencement speaker, saying her prominence was based on who she married. (AP)



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Hand Mixer: • Pushbutton beater ejection • 3-speed selector on handle grip • Stainless steel beaters • Plastic storage compartment included.

SHM 20E
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Compact, Easy-to-Operate Blenders: • 3 pushbutton controls (On-Off-Flash) • 800ml glass containers.

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SKM 1550E
Food Factory with Continuous-Flow: • 4 or 8 attachments for a variety of food preparations • Continuous-Flow • Attachments stored inside unit • Leak-proof lid.

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SK 6000
Electric Oven with Slide-Out Racks: • Quick and easy preparation of all kinds of baked foods • 3 heating styles: top or bottom heaters together Slide-out trays and grill • 60 minutes time with shut-off switch and chime.

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High Power Meat Grinder: • High-power motor • 4 cutters for a variety of tasks • Flash switch for making better kubbie • Circuit breaker • Reverse switch • Large-capacity aluminium hopper.

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EM 1410G
Compact, Variable Power Microwave Oven: • 30-min. timer • Rotating glass table for even cooking • 18.6-liter cavity and door release button.

KD. 51,500

Sheen Actor held

LOS ANGELES, May 18, (Reuters) Film star Martin Sheen said three others were arrested when protesters poured red liquid on the wall of a US government building on Wednesday to mark the sixth-month anniversary of the murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador.

Sheen, who has been arrested several times previously in protests, and the other three were held on suspicion of causing malicious mischief.

150,000 Managua workers end strike

MANAGUA, May 18, (AP): An estimated 150,000 government employees ended a week-long strike that had threatened the new administration, but university students began a protest rally outside Parliament.

The huge walkouts were a victory for the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front, which engineered the strikes beginning Friday to press for job security and big pay increases.

The 3-week-old government of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro promised not to fire those who walked off their jobs and agreed to double salaries for the public employees as part of the strike settlement.

That was about half what the Sandinista-dominated unions originally asked but higher than the 60 per cent Chamorro initially offered.

She has devalued the cordoba, Nicaragua's currency, four times since she took office on April 25; inflation however is averaging 70 per cent monthly, in effect steadily reducing the real wages of workers in this nation of 3.5 million residents.

"Everything is returning to normal. Employees at the banking system cleared out the offices they had occupied and those at the ministries are following suit," presidential spokesman Danilo Lacayo said in a telephone interview.

The international airport reopened and the bus system was getting back into gear.

In Washington, President George Bush complained that a procedural deadlock in the US Congress was holding up a \$300-million aid package for Nicaragua and that he could not disburse \$4 million in emergency help requested by Chamorro until the package is approved.

Alejandro Solorzano, a labour leader who supports Chamorro, said the strike more resembled an attempt by the Sandinistas to bring down the new government than a job action.

"The strike was managed directly by a few leaders of the Sandinista Front. It was an attempted coup, carried out by adventurers and holdup men who checkmated the government," Solorzano said.

Menem moves out of residence in latest bout with wife

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 18, (AP): President Carlos Menem has moved out of the official residence in an effort to end highly publicised matrimonial strife that has taken on political overtones, the Argentine press reported Wednesday.

A conjugal crisis between Menem and outspoken First Lady Zulema Menem, "threatening to become a question of state," led the president to

abandon the residence in suburban Olivos on May 8, the weekly news-magazine "Sonos" reported in its Wednesday edition.

Since then, the magazine said, the 59-year-old president, who led the labour-based Peronist Party to victory in May 14, 1989 elections, has been staying at the apartments of aides and close friends.

Presidential spokesmen declined

immediately to confirm or deny the report, latest in a series that have captured headlines since Menem first gained political prominence as a provincial governor in the 1970s.

Zulema Eva Menem, the couple's 19-year-old daughter, described the report, which also appeared in two Buenos Aires daily newspapers, as "total infamy and slander" in a broadcast interview. Her brother Carlos, 21,

had no immediate comment.

Separation is nothing new for the Menems, both descendants of Syrian immigrants. They have lived apart for various reasons during nearly half of their 24-year marriage.

Lately, however, their differences have taken on political overtones and Menem has publicly described his wife as one of the "harsh critics" of his government's political and economic

policy.

A lawyer and three-term governor of the northwestern province of La Rioja, Menem has won criticism from Labour, the left and sector of his own party for his free-market economy approach aimed at ending economic ills that have plagued Argentina for decades.

Mrs Menem, a striking, fashionably dressed blonde who gives her age as 46,

has adopted a more traditionally Peronist view, repeatedly questioning in public and in the press the effect these policies will have on workers, retirees and the poor.

She has charged that her husband is surrounded by corrupt or untrustworthy aides and advisors and has publicly accused several top officials, including Menem's younger brother, Sen. Eduardo Menem, of unspecified misdeeds.

Bogota car blast

BOGOTA, May 18, (AP): A car bomb exploded last night at a shopping centre in Cartagena after President Virgilio Barco accused drug traffickers of trying to take over Colombia. Mayor Manuel Domingo Rojas said at least 35 people were injured.

Drug traffickers claimed responsibility in telephone calls to media in Medellin, a cocaine stronghold. The government has blamed all of the more than 200 bombings nationwide the past nine months on drug traffickers.

Those bombings have killed 259 people.

Cartagena, on Colombia's Caribbean coast, was a popular tourist resort for Americans until drug traffickers detonated a bomb in the Hilton Hotel last year, killing two people.

Yesterday's bomb exploded at the Boca Grande shopping centre in the heart of the high-rise hotel and condominium district. Gov. Guillermo Pinazo of Bolivar state told radio network RCN.

The Colombian Navy said in a statement broadcast by RCN that the car contained about 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of dynamite.

Among the injured were two Parisians, Lara Tana Terrier, 47, and her son Eric, 14. Details of their condition were not available.

The other injured were Colombians.

Earlier yesterday in the capital, Bogota, police discovered a truck bomb with 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of dynamite. The device capable of levelling a large residential area, was found covered in a cargo of beans in the back of a truck, police said.

The truck was in a Bogota parking lot and was searched after the lot's owner became suspicious when the truck had not been moved for several days.

Three car bombs exploded



Colombian police unload on Thursday the last box of 300 kgs of dynamite found in a truck in a parking lot in Bogota. In the last 8 months there have been 272 terrorist bombings that have left 259 people dead. (Reuters wirephoto)

Saturday, killing 28 people.

Drug traffickers are trying to "wipe out an entire institutional government of democratic tradition, of civil and moral values," Barco said Wednesday in a speech at the national police academy.

He compared drug traffickers' barbarity to "the times of Nazism and Fascism."

But drug traffickers are not invulnerable, Barco said. "This is the beginning of the end for

them," he warned.

Four more police officers were murdered Wednesday in Medellin, where drug traffickers have offered cash rewards for the killings of police.

The victims were shot down on Medellin's streets, the national police in the northwestern city said in a communiqué.

The Medellin cocaine cartel has said it will pay the equivalent of about \$4,000 for the murder of each regular policeman.

Asylum in Madrid

Cuban defector requests

MADRID, May 18, (AP): The mistress of ceremonies of Cuba's famed Tropicana Nightclub Revue requested asylum in Spain yesterday and was granted temporary residence in Madrid after leaving the group in the middle of its tour.

Amparo Depestre, the 29-year-old Tropicana emcee, told a news conference she was forced to request asylum after she disobeyed a Cuban "political commissar" overseeing the Spanish tour who had ordered her to return home.

There was no immediate comment from the Spanish government on her asylum request.

Dramatic drop in US drug appetite

WASHINGTON, May 18, (Reuters): Dramatic new figures showing a drop in cocaine-linked medical emergencies have sparked hopes that America's appetite for the illicit drug may have reached its peak and begun a decline.

Officials are still wondering whether the 22 per cent fall in hospital admissions for cocaine abusers is real progress or just a glitch in a stream of endless drugs data.

A Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) official said "We would certainly hope the problem is waning."

He said the new figures, announced on Monday by health and human services secretary Louis Sullivan, here consistent with other information pointing to an easing of the cocaine menace.

Wary US officials will not say that the crisis — fuelled in recent years by highly addictive, smokable "crack" cocaine — has passed. But they have latched on to the latest data to express guarded hope that the worst may be over.

US drug officials estimate that 21 million people over the age of 12 have at some time tried cocaine, a hefty proportion of the total of 72 million people who have used an illegal drug.

While drug data abounds, the hospital figures are considered among the most reliable since they track cocaine overdose cases or other problems and are not merely estimates.

In the same survey, heroin medical emergencies also fell, but officials said they have not dropped as much as cocaine.

The Republican administration had given priority to a criminal crackdown rather than education and treatment in its much-criticised \$10-billion-a-year war on drugs.

The administration wants success in its high profile anti-drugs efforts, which critic, Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat and chairman of the House of Representatives narcotics committee, said is being waged with "rubber bullets".



Coffin-carrying protest

Protesters carry a coffin through the square outside Brooklyn's state Supreme Court building before a jury convicted white teenager Joseph Fama of murdering an unarmed black youth on Thursday in New York City. On the coffin were the names of blacks killed recently in the city. (Reuters wirephoto)

White found guilty

Black murder in Bensonhurst

NEW YORK, May 18, (AP): A jury yesterday found a 19-year-old white man guilty of second-degree murder in the killing of a black teenager in Bensonhurst, the most serious of a recent spate of racial confrontations in New York City.

Joseph Fama of Brooklyn, accused of being the triggerman in the killings of 16-year-old Yusuf Hawkins, faces a maximum sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

Jury forewoman Tonya Bailey delivered the verdict late yesterday after 10 tension-wrought days of deliberations.

Hawkins and three friends were going to look at a car that was for sale when they were attacked by a gang of whites late Aug 23 in the mostly white Bensonhurst section of New York.

The verdict, the first conviction in the case, was greeted with shouts outside the courtroom by Hawkins' family and supporters.

Mayor David N. Dinkins said in a statement that the guilty ver-



Stewart raises his fist in gesture of victory as he leaves Brooklyn court on May 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

dict allows "us to turn our attention to the process of healing."

"Yusuf Hawkins died of racism in the first degree. That is a crime far more common than

most of us are willing to admit," the city's first black mayor said. Fama was found guilty on 13 of 15 counts, including second-degree murder by depraved indifference to human life, riot, unlawful imprisonment, menacing, discrimination, and criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree.

The defendant was acquitted of second-degree intentional murder — the equivalent in seriousness of the deprived indifference charge — as well as criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree.

A second jury considering charges against co-defendant Keith Mondello, who was tried in the same courtroom as Fama, ended its deliberations yesterday without reaching a verdict.

Prosecutors allege Mondello, also 19, assembled a gang of 30 or more of his friends because he feared 25 black and Hispanic friends of a neighbourhood girl, Gina Feliciano, were coming to beat him up.

Robert Kennedy death

Re-probe urged

LOS ANGELES, May 18, (AP): The investigation into the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy should be reopened to look at the mystery of one or more extra bullets, say scholars who have studied the massive files.

The demand to reopen the Kennedy case coincides with Wednesday night's airing of NBC-TV's "unsolved mysteries," which re-examines the second-gun theory in the midst of the May ratings sweeps period.

Gregory Stone, a political scientist who spent nearly two years studying material from state archives, said Tuesday it is possible that at least nine bullets and perhaps as many as 12 were fired in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel on the night of June 5, 1968, when Kennedy was slain.

The convicted assassin, Sirhan B. Sirhan, carried a .22-calibre revolver that held eight bullets.

"After 22 years, it is not acceptable to allow fundamental questions to remain unanswered about the murder of one of the greatest public figures of our time," Stone told a news conference.

"Significant new evidence has recently surfaced suggesting that more shots may have been fired during the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy than could have been discharged by Sirhan Sirhan acting alone," he said.

Stone called for the Los Angeles county district attorney and the county board of supervisors to reopen the investigation.

The so-called second gun theory has haunted the Kennedy case for years, raising persistent speculation that someone else in the pantry fired shots that night.

The researchers did not speculate on who a second gunman might have been.

Candice William Booth, spokesman for the police department, said the second-gun theory was thoroughly explored by investigators. He dismissed Stone's allegations as a rebash of old material.

"There are no plans to reopen the investigation. 'Unsolved Mysteries' is reviving the how-many-guns theory. They haven't presented anything that hasn't been presented before," Booth said.

2-time killer executed in Louisiana

ANGOLA, Louisiana, May 18, (AP): A two-time killer who shot a Louisiana state trooper to death was executed early Friday despite international outcry that he was mentally retarded and a mere teenager at the time of the crime.

Dalton Prejean, who had won 10 previous delays of scheduled executions, was pronounced dead in the state electric chair at 12:21 am (0521 GMT).

The US Supreme Court voted 7-2 Thursday night to deny a stay for Prejean.

Prejean's execution was the nation's third in 24 hours. Texas and Missouri each executed killers early Thursday. His death was the 128th in the nation, and the 19th in Louisiana, since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

There were two small protests prior to Prejean's execution — one by death penalty opponents outside the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge and another by supporters outside the penitentiary's main gate.

Earlier, Gov. Buddy Roemer said he would not stop the execution.

Uruguay a car buff's heaven

Locals use vintage cars for normal life

MONTEVIDEO, May 18, (Reuters): A 1947 British-made Hillman saloon stops at a traffic light at a central crossroads in Uruguay's capital, next to an ageing American-made Studebaker. Right behind it, a 1955 Chevrolet Bel-Air comes to a halt.

Uruguay's streets are a car buff's heaven, an endless show of vintage models and old jalopies. Cars which West Europeans and North Americans see only in museums or on films are perfectly normal vehicles for local motorists.

Huge American classics survive along with practically every type of German Volkswagen and Opel, Spartan Czechoslovakian Skodas and Ancient French Citroens.

Pre-World War Two Ford lorries can be found in any marketplace and 1937 internationals are still used to make deliveries.

Though a flow of exports to foreign collectors has depleted their number, Ford model as still trundle along Uruguay's roads, mingling with Mercedes, BMWs and new Japanese models.

Local mechanics, who have to improvise spare parts to keep their clients' old creaks running, say

there are no secrets for car longevity in Uruguay where all motor vehicles are either imported or built from kits.

Montevideo mechanic Sergio Lerner said he has to deal with any problem his clients bring. Lerner, who owns a 1969 Fiat 850, said vintage cars were popular purely for reasons of economy.

"I think it's a question of purchasing power. Businessmen are among the few who can shell out \$15,000 or more for a new car. Others make do with a \$1,000 or \$2,000 clunker to take the family out on Sundays," said Lerner.

A 1955 Bel Air costs around \$3,300 and a well-kept 1951 US-made De Soto \$5,000. A good Ford model costs \$3,500 but old Packards and Vauxhalls can be snapped up for less than \$1,500.

Motorists, who tend to keep vehicles for two or three decades, insist old cars are also cheaper to run. "I bought my van in the early 1950s and it turned out to be so good that I've never wanted to sell it. Besides, taxes and insurance for new models are very expensive," said bank employee Antonio Fernandez, owner of a British Commer.

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Bosses' range from good to bad to 'downright unbelievable'

WASHINGTON, May 18, (AP): A Philadelphia businessman who asked his secretary to scout for good-looking women at a local pub and then call him on a beeper to tell him of his prospects is a dubious "winner" in a national bosses' contest.

Other bad and "downright unbelievable" bosses named Wednesday included a New York supervisor who followed female employees to the rest room and stood outside to time them.

A boss at a brokerage firm in Cleveland was awarded a special "boss-felon" award for holding "forgery contests" among secretaries to see who could best forge clients' signatures on stocks and bonds.

A boss in Gaylord, Minnesota, "won" for discriminating against pregnant women.

The contest, sponsored by a Cleveland support group for clerical workers called 9to5, National Association of Working

Women, also honoured good bosses.

Those included the president of a computer services firm in Birmingham, Alabama, for establishing progressive family leave policies; a department chairman at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, for advocating pay raises; and the chairman of Northwest Airlines for making company employees "feel like an asset to the airline."

Identities of the bad bosses were not released.

A Philadelphia secretary who nominated her boss and said she was asked "to go to a pub to check out girls before he entered."

"He told me to keep him if there was anyone good-looking in the bar so he wouldn't waste his time," the woman wrote.

Another bad boss was nominated by a state worker in Madison, Wisconsin, whose mother had to be rushed to the hospital. The next day, the worker asked

for the afternoon off to visit her.

"Well ... go ahead. But next time you should plan these things better," the boss responded.

The manager of an insurance company in Boulder, Colorado, also "won" for yelling at female worker to bring coffee and adding, "you squaw: me chief."

"Common themes emerged in both the good and bad boss stories," said Ellen Bravo, associate director of 9to5. "People want to be appreciated and to be treated

like human beings — not like machines or peons. And businesses that show regard for their employees inspire loyalty and prosper as a result."

Judges who reviewed hundreds of entries submitted by office workers nationwide included Patricia Schroeder, a US Congresswoman who represents Colorado; Washington post columnist Bob Levey; and Roberta McKay, who heads the Labour Department's women's bureau.

Britons worried

'Mad cow' disease

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): The death of a pet cat from a disease which kills cattle is worrying Britons that it could spread to them.

The government announced last week that Max, a five-year-old Siamese, had contracted a form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) — or 'mad cow' disease — which has hit more than 13,000 cattle in Britain since 1986.

The disclosure stoked up a row between the government and experts worried that if the disease can be passed from grass-eating animals to meat-eaters such as cats it might also spread to humans.

The beef scare has provided more unappetising news about food for Britons who may have already lost their taste for eggs said to be tainted with salmonella, cheese brimming with listeria germs and frozen food full of bacteria.

Britons are also buying more bottled water than ever after nitrates and sewage were found in drinking water in some areas.

Veterinary surgeons carrying out a post-mortem on the cat, which was thought to have been infected through pet food, found the sponge-like holes characteristic of BSE in its brain.

BSE is a fatal brain disease of cattle which can be incubated for five years or more. Visible symptoms, which include aggressive behaviour and unsteadiness of gait — hence 'mad cow' disease — occur only in the terminal stages. There is no cure.

Ministers and farmers' leaders have dismissed fears that BSE can be passed to humans but panic among shoppers and importers of British beef could be catastrophic for the country's two billion-pound-sterling (\$3.5 billion) cattle industry.

The row has fuelled public concern and captured headlines in Britain's national newspapers and television news programmes. An all-party commit-

tee of members of Parliament on Wednesday launched an urgent inquiry into whether BSE can affect humans.

Professor Richard Lacey, a former government health adviser, called for the slaughter of six million British cattle, or nearly half the national herd, in a bid to eradicate BSE.

The Ministry of Agriculture has said the most likely source of BSE is cattle feed made from the offal of sheep infected with scrapie, a similar disorder.

Such feed has been banned and last year the ministry stopped the sale of cattle offal, including the brain, spleen and spinal cord, for human consumption.

Agriculture Minister John Gummer said on Tuesday he had asked his advisers to consider the slaughter of thousands of calves born from cows struck by BSE.

The move marks a significant shift in government policy. It is the first admission that there may be further causes to the disease other than through infected foodstuffs.

Education authorities controlling thousands of schools have banned British beef from school meals and some are using imported beef from the European Economic Community (EEC). More are considering a similar move.

Britain can only export live cattle under six months to other EEC states and these have to be slaughtered in their country of destination before they reach that age.

The Soviet Union has banned British beef and dairy imports because of BSE, causing unexpected embarrassment to organisers of a British banquet at a trade festival in the Ukrainian city of Kiev next month.



Fearless eaters

British Agriculture Minister John Selwyn Gummer enjoys a beefburger May 16 with his daughter Cordelia to dispel fears about the meat. Some schools have withdrawn beef from their meals due to fears about the spread of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy disease (BSE) from cows to humans by eating beef. (Reuters wirephoto)

European Court rules

Pension fund equality must

BRUSSELS, May 18, (Reuters): The European Court of Justice, in a judgement with dramatic implications for company pension schemes in the European Economic Community, ruled on Thursday that they must grant the same terms to men and women.

The ruling means that companies which have funded their pension schemes on the assumption that men will be entitled to pensions later than women now face a big bill to guarantee all employees the same pension rights.

The financial implications of the judgement are potentially so serious that the Luxembourg-based court made a rare exception from normal practice and ruled that its provisions would not apply retroactively.

It is the first time that the court, the EEC's highest legal authority, has found in favour of men's rights in a sex discrimination case.

The decision applies immediately throughout the 12-nation community but does not affect state pension

schemes, which can continue to allow men and women to retire at different ages, or private pension schemes not linked to specific employers.

The court's key judgement was that pension rights under compulsory company schemes were effectively a form of remuneration for employees.

As such, they are covered by article 119 of the EEC's founding treaty guaranteeing equal pay, which is defined as "the ordinary basic wage or salary and any other consideration, whether in cash or in kind, which the worker receives, directly or indirectly, in respect of his employment from his employer."

"Unlike the benefits awarded by the National Statutory Social Security Schemes, a pension paid under a contract-out scheme constitutes consideration paid by the employer to the worker in respect of his employment and consequently falls within the scope of article 119 of the treaty," the court said.

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'Nessie' Prize for proof

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): A London bookmaker offered a 250,000 pound sterling (\$422,000) prize yesterday to anyone proving the legendary Loch Ness monster really exists.

In the last 60 years more than 800 sightings of "Nessie" have been reported but there is still no concrete evidence that a giant creature lurks in the Scottish sea.

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Protests mark Kwangju revolt

Thousands pay homage

KWANGJU, May 18, (AP): The 10th anniversary of the bloodiest rebellion in modern South Korean history was remembered with flowers and street violence today.

The national daily Dong-A Ilbo said about 50,000 students joined in today's protests on more than 150 campuses throughout the country.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests, other reports said.

In Kwangju, the scene of the May 18, 1980, revolt, combat-clad riot police fired volleys of tear gas to break up about 1,000 students trying to enter a school for a rally outlawed by the government.

Then years ago in Kwangju, hundreds of thousands of citizens rose up against the central government to protest a crackdown on political dissent. The protesters drove out police and took control of the city for 10 days before being crushed by tank-led paratroopers.

'Too much freedom' Kim speaks out

SEOUL, May 18, (UPI): To a woman brought up under a rigid communist ideology in North Korea, anti-government protests in South Korea appear to be a luxury she can hardly understand.

The observation comes from Kim Hyon-bui, 28, a confessed North Korean agent who placed a time bomb on a Korean Air jetliner late in 1987. She was sentenced to death but has since been pardoned because of her potential as a witness to North Korean authorities.

Kim made her first public appearance when she attended a church service Wednesday, news reports said. She also had a session with Korean news reporters.

"At first I was puzzled to see demonstrations taking place in this country where people live in affluence," Kim told reporters after attending a service at a Baptist church in Seoul, the reports said.

"There are no such demonstrations in North Korea, where what (President) Kim Il-sung says is law. There seems to be too much of freedom in South Korea. I even wonder why such political confusion should be allowed."

She said after nearly three years in the South she came to realize that in a capitalist society freedom is guaranteed and its citizens are encouraged to demonstrate their capabilities, whereas North Korea is a rigid class society where private initiatives are denied.

She said she became a Christian after meeting a minister about a year ago. She said she reads the Bible every day and currently is writing an autobiography telling how she was born, educated, drafted as a terrorist agent and carried out the KAL bombing.

About 200 people were killed and more than 1,700 injured by official count. Dissidents claim the death toll was much higher.

Today, students briefly occupied an eight-lane street near Kwangju teachers' college before being dispersed by police firing tear gas. Some students broke sidewalks into fist-sized rocks and hurled the pieces at police.

"Punish Roh Tae-Woo," students in Kwangju shouted, shooting their clenched fists into the air. "Yankee go home," they also screamed.

Some South Koreans believe that Washington condoned the military crackdown. The United States has denied the charges.

In Seoul, about 300 students burned the flags of Roh's governing Democratic Liberal Party and the United States and fought police in front of Hanyang University. Police fired tear gas to block them from marching into the streets.

Earlier in the day, about a dozen students fled after attacking a police substation in eastern Seoul with firebombs. No one was injured, but a glass door was broken.

In Kwangju, 250 kms (156 miles) south of Seoul, thousands of people, braving heavy downpours, visited a hillside graveyard and paid homage to the victims of the revolt.

Bereaved families and friends offered prayers and wept before altars during a memorial ceremony at Mangwoldong cemetery on the edge of this provincial city where about 200 victims of the revolt are buried.

"My child, my child," cried an old woman in white mourning clothes, rubbing a gray tombstone bearing the name of her 17-year daughter, who was killed in the 10-day revolt.

A few yards (metres) away, about 20 youths put down a bundle of yellow flowers in front of a tomb and made deep bows, one by one. They sang anti-government songs and shouted, "remember Kwangju," and "fight for democracy."

Down the hill, hundreds of weeping mourners, many of them wearing white funeral clothing and holding umbrellas against the rain, treaded to the graveyard along muddy fields.



Concern

A US newsletter publisher detained for three weeks in Vietnam said Thursday his interrogators expressed concern that the country's dissidents might try to start a mass democracy movement.

Mike Morrow, publisher of Petroleum News, an industry journal, was arrested April 23 while visiting the central city of Da Nang where he was looking into investment possibilities. He was freed and flown to Bangkok Monday.

Security officials who interrogated him said they were unsure about Vietnam's future political stability. Morrow told a news conference Thursday.

He said one of the officials told him "would not entertain an investment project in Vietnam in which you could not get your return out in more than two years. We cannot see the political stability of the country any further into the future than that." (Reuter wirephoto)



Riot policemen stand alert amid petrol bombs at Chonnam University in Kwangju on May 17. (Reuter wirephoto)

China has no regrets: Jiang

NEW YORK, May 18, (Agencies): Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin, in what was described as his first television interview since coming to power, called the crackdown on demonstrators in Tiananmen Square "much ado about nothing" and said 431 people, including 42 students, were still in prison.

In a taped interview with Barbara Walters of ABC's "20/20" programme, Jiang also spelled out conditions under which dissident Fang Lizhi could leave the US embassy in Beijing, where he has been living since the crackdown, and said ousted Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang, who sympathised with the students, would not be brought to trial.

Walters asked Jiang, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission, if he had a Chinese proverb to describe the Tiananmen crackdown. "To give a Chinese proverb, I would say that it's like 'much ado about nothing,'" he said.

It was Jiang's first television interview since coming to power after the crackdown last June.

Jiang said: "I don't have any regrets about the way in which we dealt with the events which took place last year in Beijing. Had we failed, in the end, to take resolute measures to deal with those events, then the entire capital of the People's Republic of China would have been thrown into great chaos."

But he said he did not think a violent crackdown on similar pro-democracy demonstrations would take place again.

"We have a proverb in China, 'a fall into the pit, a gain in your wit,'" he said. "I think we learn by our mistakes; that is, we have made adequate preparations in terms of strengthening the police force and storing non-lethal weapons. In this regard, I am ready to learn from all the developed Western countries."

China accused the United States yesterday of smearing the Chinese government over its human rights record and denied Amnesty International charges of widespread human rights violations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Jianhua, speaking at a weekly briefing, also said recent student demonstrations in Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and Hong Kong in support of pro-democracy students in China were inappropriate and based on ignorance.

Li expressed China's "strong protest" over a proclamation signed by US President George Bush Saturday designating May 13 a national day in support of human rights.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun was quoted yesterday as saying last year's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing represented a triumph for socialism.

"It didn't hurt Chinese socialism," Yang said in remarks to the Mexican news agency Notimex when asked about the military crackdown in and around Tiananmen Square.

"It strengthened the government's faith in the socialist system and allowed us to dismantle the seditious plots."

Nothing is left to chance in Nagasaki Excessive security for Akihito

NAGASAKI, May 18, (AP): When the Emperor of Japan leaves his palace in Tokyo, nothing is left to chance.

Determined to eliminate the element of surprise, officials in this scenic coastal city on the southern island of Kyushu have slaved for months over preparations for the arrival of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Officials here are particularly nervous because the Emperor is to meet Mayor Itoshi Motoshima, who was shot in the back by a rightist in January for saying the late Emperor Hirohito, Akihito's father, bore some war responsibility.

Though the city was quiet on the eve of the visit, about 4,000 police officers were being mobilised to ensure the monarch's safety.

Highlighting the Emperor's four-day stay will be a visit to an atomic bomb memorial at Peace Park soon after his arrival today and

the 41st annual Arbor Day Festival on Sunday.

The Emperor, who is to plant a tree and give a short address, is to stay at the festival for less than one hour, but officials reportedly are spending 7 million yen (\$50,000) to deodorise a nearby pig farm.

Officials also are planning to erect a curtain to keep the farm out of the royal couple's sight, and have told media hoping to cover the event by helicopter not to create any ruckus that might disturb the farm animals.

"Sure, if the wind is right it could smell pretty bad at the festival," said Yotichi Tanaka, head of general affairs for the Nagasaki prefectural trade union. "But it's a pig farm, after all, and there really isn't any need to try to hide that."

The strengthened police presence prompted a local newspaper, the Nagasaki Shim-

bun, to complain in an editorial yesterday that "excessive security" could dampen "the Nagasaki people's natural desire to welcome their Emperor."

The editorial, however, acknowledged the need for tight security wherever the Emperor goes. Leftist radicals strongly oppose the monarchy, and often have used violence to gain publicity for their views.

The same month that Motoshima was shot, leftists claimed responsibility for firing projectiles that slightly damaged the home of the Emperor's younger brother, Prince Hitachi.

Public opinion polls indicate the overwhelming majority of Japanese support the monarchy, but there also are painful memories of World War II, when the Emperor's name was used to inspire Japan's troops.



'Run, walk and crawl'

51-year-old former US beauty queen Sally Perdue goes for an early morning jog with People's Liberation Army soldiers along a Beijing street on May 17. Perdue will attempt to become the first person ever to run the Great Wall of China. She plans to 'run, walk and crawl' the wall for four months. (Reuter wirephoto)

Torture routine in Burmese prisons

Jailed British physicist says

BANGKOK, May 18, (AP): A Briton detained for three months in Burma said yesterday that he saw evidence that torture, including electric shocks and beatings, was routinely used on prisoners he met there.

Paul Key, a 45-year-old physicist from London, was arrested after entering western Burma from Bangladesh on Feb 8. He was found guilty of entering the country without a visa and violating foreign exchange regulations.

Key, who was held in the towns of Maungdaw and Sitwe, was deported from Burma to Thailand on May 4.

Although he was well-treated while held in Burma, Key said he witnessed daily beatings of other prisoners and saw evidence of torture.

At a detention centre in Maungdaw near the Bangladesh border, Key said he saw one prisoner in a state of acute shock after interrogation by military intelligence personnel. The 20-year-old man had what appeared to be electrode burn marks on his back and said he was given shocks to his head and body, he said.

"All the prisoners considered torture so routine that they found it amusing when I told them that it was not normal elsewhere in the world," Key told the Associated Press in an interview in Bangkok.

"It was taken for granted that they wire you up when you walk through the door," he said.

The London-based human rights group, Amnesty International, said in a May 2 report that torture of civilians in Burma was widespread and anyone suspected of opposing the government was at risk.

Key said the treatment of prisoners who were members of insurgent groups was the most often maltreated by Burmese prison trustees and guards.

One of three Muslim Arakanese insurgents, a farmer in his 30s, said they had received electric shocks to their backs, head and genitals, and been beaten on their shin bones by guards, Key said. One still bore scars on one leg from such a beating, he said.

Another prisoner said he had a plastic sheet wrapped around his face and his head ducked under water.

Cars set on fire in protest

TOKYO, May 18, (UPI): Six cars parked at six different locations linked to the Justice Ministry erupted in flames at about the same time yesterday, and police said they suspect a leftist group opposed to next week's visit by South Korean President Roh Tae Woo.

No one was injured in the attacks on cars parked outside the homes of two Justice Ministry officials and four ministry facilities at about 3 a.m., police said.

Police said they found coffee cans, wires and timing devices at the scenes of the fires.

Similar devices have been used in the past by the leftist radical group Chukakuha, or middle core fraction, police said. And police said they suspect the group was responsible for the fires.

The group has pledged to disrupt Roh's May 24-26 visit because they believe it represents Japan's effort to establish control over East Asia in much the same way Tokyo did in a policy early this century which eventually led to Japan's involvement in World War II, said the Kyodo News Service.

Record setting auction of art

TOKYO, May 18, (AP): The wealthy Japanese businessman identified as the record-setting purchaser of Van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr. Gachet" earlier this week has also helped a sought-after record mastermind.

Anonymous report said that Kyoko Saito, chairman emerita of Kyocera, Japan's second-largest paper company, Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Co., made the purchase of "An Moulin de la Galette" yesterday for \$78.1 million at an auction at Sotheby's New York.

"I haven't heard yet from the art dealer, but if I won the auction I couldn't be happier," he told Kyodo after news of the sale reached Japan this morning.

Saito could not be reached for immediate comment, and Daishowa officials refused to name his identity or say how much he paid for the painting, Saito said.

Japanese newspapers said that Saito plans to borrow money on his considerable land holdings to pay for the two paintings. He is frequently listed among Japan's richest men. According to the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper, Saito paid more than \$5 million in taxes last year.

"Works by Van Gogh or Renoir rarely go on sale, so I'm very fortunate. In addition, I think it is wonderful that they will come to Japan," Saito told Kyodo.

In an earlier auction in New York Tuesday at Christie's, a somber portrait by Vincent Van Gogh of his doctor was sold for \$82.5 million to the Kobayashi Gallery of Tokyo. It was the highest purchase price ever for a single painting.

Though gallery owner Hideto Kobayashi refused to name his client, Japanese newspapers identified Saito as the buyer.

Saito, 74, served as president of Daishowa between 1971 and 1982 and is said to remain its de facto leader. Two of his children act as president and chairman of the company.

His younger brother is state governor of Shizuoka prefecture, where the Saito clan resides and Daishowa has one of its corporate headquarters.

Known as a veteran art collector, Saito amassed a substantial collection during the postwar era. However, he had to sell off many works after the oil shocks of the 1970s, when his paper concern hit bad times. Profits have since revived, Japanese newspapers said, enabling him to indulge in his favourite hobby.

Following the Van Gogh purchase, Saito told the Yomiuri: "It cost 5 billion yen (\$33 million) more than I expected, but that's nothing. Next I want the Renoir."

Taiwan poised to make fundamental policy change towards its traditional enemy China

TAIPEI, May 18, (Reuter): Taiwan is poised to make a fundamental policy change towards its traditional enemy China, and analysts said the first formal move may come at Sunday's presidential inauguration.

To mark the start of Lee Teng-Hui's first full term as Taiwan's first native-born president, he may announce an end to the harsh stance that has governed policy since the nationalist party fled to the island after communist victory in China in 1949, the analysts said.

The rhetoric has already softened, with govern-

ment officials no longer branding Beijing a "bandit regime".

On Tuesday, Lee's choice for Taiwan's new premier, Defence Minister Hau Pei-Tsun, for the first time said publicly the reality was that China was "one country with two governments."

Since 1949, the nationalists have maintained they are the legitimate government of all China, while Beijing considers Taipei merely the capital of a province.

"The government now has a major chance to

change policy, and has a very good time to announce a new policy," said Tsai Chi-Yuan, a fellow at the Academia Sinica.

"Most people welcome a chance to reduce tension and develop a long-term policy towards mainland China. If we have two central governments on an equal basis we can have peace talks and regulate commercial activities," he said.

Lee's spokesman said the president "would make a definitive announcement in the near future" on whether to end the "period of mobilisation to sup-

press communist rebellion" — the state of war that has existed across the Taiwan straits for more than four decades.

Lee may also announce a change in Taipei's "three-no" policy of "no contact, no compromise, no negotiation" with the Beijing government, analysts said.

A change would give the rhetoric an opportunity to catch up with reality. The "three nos" have gradually become the "three maybes" as Taiwan has relaxed rules restricting travel, trade, sports events and investment.

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Concrete houses help to avoid deaths

YODURAMUNDI, India, May 18. (Reuters): Rescuers had feared the worst for the 7,000 people living on an island that felt the full force of India's worst storm in a decade.

But their fears turned to relief when they finally reached Yoduramundi off the coast of southern India's Andhra Pradesh state to find only two people had been killed in the cyclone's "monstrous winds".

The official state death toll of 722 from the May 9 storm continues to rise as rescuers find more bodies in remote areas.

Yoduramundi took the full force of the cyclone's 240 kph (149 mile per hour) winds and the tidal waves they whipped up.

But many deaths were prevented by the concrete houses the state government had funded to replace largely mud-walled and thatched houses.

"We got on top of these buildings and to prevent us being blown away by the monstrous winds, we tied ropes between strong points and held onto them for dear life,"

islander Ramesh Babu told Reuters yesterday.

Indian air force helicopters reached the island and started dropping potable water and food last Saturday, three days after the cyclone hit.

Now that the shock of the devastation has worn off, the islanders, who earn their living mainly by fishing, are starting to think about putting their lives back together.

"Out of 250 fishing boats on the island, only 15 are intact," Babu said.

"A fisherman normally earns 30 to 50 rupees (two to three dollars) a day. Now it's nil. The government has to give us loans immediately or we are sunk," he said.

A small lake is the island's only source of drinking water.

"It was full of carcasses. We've taken them all out, but the water is still polluted. The government will have to help us pump it dry and then we can let it fill up again with clean water," said Kottiah Naidu.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hashish ring arrested: Federal drug agents arrested seven suspects, halting what they called an international hashish ring stretching from Pakistan to the US state of Michigan.

"This is the most significant hashish trafficking organisation that we've immobilised," said Johnnie Granados, a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Detroit. "I can't remember an organisation wider in scope that has generated wholesale profits as this."

The ring moved more than 50 tons of hashish worth more than \$300 million from 1979-87, authorities said. (UPI)

India to sell airbuses: State-run Indian Airlines will sell four A320 airbuses scheduled for delivery and lease out another 14 grounded since one of its airbuses crashed in February, a spokesman for the airline said on Thursday.

The spokesman said the four A320s were ready for delivery at Toulouse, headquarters of the European Airbus Industrie which manufactures the A320, one of the world's most sophisticated aircraft.

The 14 grounded A320s would be leased out for at least six months, he said.

India in 1986 agreed to buy a total of 31 Airbus A320s and is awaiting delivery of 16 of the aircraft. (Reuters)

Pakistan unrest

Death toll 13

KARACHI, May 18. (Agencies): The death toll from a week of ethnic violence in Pakistan's biggest city of Karachi rose to 13 today after a young man was killed by an unknown gunman in the street, police said.

A senior member of the political party representing refugees from India was killed last night by a volley of shots fired from a car, police said.

The body of a third man, believed to have been shot, was recovered today.

Ethnic violence, which has gripped Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province of Sindh since 1986, has also spread to Hyderabad, 150 km (90 miles) from Karachi.

Nineteen people have been killed in Hyderabad in the past five days. Parts of the city remain under curfew to prevent renewed clashes between Mohajirs, Sindhis and people from other provinces.

Tamil rebels assault policemen: Armed Tamil rebels waylaid 15 Sinhalese and Muslim policemen returning from a soccer

match in eastern Sri Lanka and clubbed them with their rifle butts, military officials said yesterday.

Six of the policemen required hospital treatment after Thursday's attack at Sammanthurai in the Ampara district, 200 kms (125 miles) east of Colombo, said the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The policemen were ordered off a bus by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the officials said.

On Tuesday, Tamil Tigers abducted 19 policemen returning from soccer practice in Kalmunai, also in the Ampara district, and released them the next day, the officials said. (AP)

Smuggled letters confiscated: Three letters confiscated at the Katunayake international airport in Colombo, Sri Lanka, are being investigated, according to leader of the House of Parliament, Ranil Wickremasinghe.

Answering a question in the house yesterday Wickremasinghe said these letters were confiscated by customs while being smuggled to foreign countries.

These letters are alleged to have been addressed by a Member of Parliament, Mahinda Rajapakse, who belongs to the leading opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, to Amnesty International, editor of the Tamil Times, based in London, Rajanayagam, and human rights worker in London, W.T. Fernando. (Kuna)

Court stays arrest of Satish

NEW DELHI, May 18. (UPI): The Delhi high court yesterday stayed the arrest of Satish Sharma, a close friend and former campaign manager of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has been accused of attempting to murder the nephew of Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

In a related development, Rajiv's Congress (I) party members in the upper house of parliament shouted anti-government slogans and disrupted proceedings, accused the ruling five-party National Front coalition of harassing members of the Congress (I) Party.

Police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state filed on Wednesday criminal charges against Sharma, a legislator in the upper house, and several other Congress (I) Party members for planning to murder Singh's nephew, Sanjay Singh, in the November 1989 parliamentary polls.

Sanjay Singh was seriously injured when he was fired at by Congress (I) Party workers on the polling day in Uttar Pradesh state. Sanjay Singh accused Sharma, who is a close friend of Rajiv and his campaign manager, of ordering an attack on him with the intention to kill him.

Sharma, fearing arrest, appealed to the high court that there was a move to falsely implicate him and sought a court directive to order police to not to arrest him.

The high court agreed to stay the arrest till his petition was disposed off.

Agitated Congress (I) members disrupted proceedings, claiming the National Front government of Singh has begun a campaign of defamation and harassment against them.

A.G. Kulkarni of the opposition Congress (I) Party warned Singh's administration that it would collapse if it continued to harass the opposition members with false cases.

He was supported by former steel minister M.L. Fotedar, who accused the government of indulging in political vendetta and harassment of the political opponents.

"We do not want to be vindictive. We do not believe in harassment of opponents, but the law of the land should take its own course," said M.S. Gurupadaswamy, the leader of the Janata Dal, the main constituent of the National Front alliance.

Meham election cancelled again

Independent candidate found dead

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 18. By-election to the Mehram assembly seat, from where Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala is seeking election, was countermanded for the second time yesterday after the murder of an independent candidate.

Reports reaching here said the bullet-riddled body of the candidate, Amir Singh, was found abandoned in an adjoining district yesterday morning. Soon after, the election commission announced its decision to countermand the polls, as provided under the rules.

The by-election was countermanded earlier after large-scale violence and rigging when polling was first held in February, with Chautala accused of having engineered booth capturing and intimidated voters with

the help of the law and order machinery.

Chautala is the eldest son of Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal and was the Janata Dal's official candidate for the by-election. His main rival is Anand Singh Dangi, a party rebel, who has been named in the first information report about yesterday's murder.

Chautala succeeded Devi Lal as Haryana chief minister when the latter was appointed deputy prime minister. He has to get elected to the legislative assembly before June 2 to continue as chief minister or step down. Chautala is contesting from two constituencies this time, the second being Dariba Kalan, which is now his only hope. Like Mehram, polling at Dariba Kalan is also scheduled for May 26.

Amir Singh was among the 29 candidates in the fray for the Mehram seat. With the countermanding of the by-election, the entire poll process has to be gone through all over again.

Police fired on a mob that thwarted the arrest of a state legislature candidate sought in the murder of a rival candidate, killing at least three people, news reports said today.

United News of India said the trouble started after police arrived in Medina to arrest Anand Singh Dangi for the killing of Amir Singh.

No new poll date has been set.



Monkeys to return

Six Orangutans and two Siamese monkeys that were smuggled out of Indonesia by animal traders will fly home on Monday in first class.

The primates, protected under the convention on international trade in endangered species, were handed over to the Indonesian ambassador in Thailand by Thai Agriculture Ministry officials in a ceremony on Friday.

They were seized in cages at Bangkok airport on Feb 20 while in transit to Yugoslavia. Belgrade zoo claimed them, saying it had ordered them from a dealer, but Thailand granted Indonesia's request that they be returned.

Biruta Galikins, president of the Orangutan Foundation, said Indonesia's national airline, Garuda, had agreed to fly the eight animals back on Monday in the first-class compartment, though they would still be caged.

The rest of the compartment will be reserved for an accompanying party of humans.

10-15pc tax on India inland flights

Air fares to go up

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 18. Inland air travel will be slightly costlier in India now, with Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate hiking the tax on the total fare from ten to fifteen per cent.

Dandavate announced the increase while moving the finance bill in the Lok Sabha Wednesday. In his budget proposals for 1990-91, he had imposed an inland air travel tax at ten per cent on the full fare instead of the basic fare as was in force till then. The modification announced now is to narrow down the gap between the US dollar fare and the Indian rupee fare.

Simultaneously, Dandavate announced many other minor modifications in his budget proposals, offering some concessions in direct and indirect taxes. Through his original proposals, he had planned to mop up Rs 1,959 crores of additional revenue. The net revenue loss involved in the changes made now are expected to be relatively small and would be made good by better tax collection, he said.

The finance bill, which gives effect to the budget proposals, was passed

by the Lok Sabha last night. Replying to the debate on the bill, Dandavate rejected the demand for raising the income tax exemption limit beyond Rs22,000. The increase in the prices of petrol and diesel was an unpleasant decision forced on the government by the severe economic constraints under which it had to function, he said.

Among the concessions announced by Dandavate was a five per cent point reduction at all levels of tax for co-operative societies.

He has also liberalised the deduction in regard to expenses incurred on handicapped children, raising the qualifying income limit of parents or guardians from Rs 60,000 to Rs 100,000.

There has been some uncertainty in regard to the number of days that a person employed as a member of the crew of an Indian ship can spend in India in a particular previous year without being considered a resident in India for that year under the income tax act. Dandavate put the matter beyond doubt by clarifying that such crew members would lose their non-resident status only if they are in India for more than 182 days in

that year.

Among the indirect tax concessions, Dandavate has provided for duty free high speed diesel to small fishermen using mechanised vessels.

In the budget, Dandavate had imposed differential rates of excise duty on purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and dimethyl terephthalate (DMT), which are used in the manufacture of polyester staple fibre and yarn. Now, both will attract a uniform rate of 15 per cent.

Other sectors and items benefiting from the concessions included the tea industry, mini-cement plants, synthetic woven sacks, metal containers and textile processing machinery. Excise duty on both blank and recorded audio cassettes has been removed but there is a marginal increase in the duty on the magnetic tape used in the manufacture of such cassettes.

Dandavate also announced that the centre would bear 50 per cent of the burden of the loans of farmers upto Rs 10,000 taken from co-operative and land development banks which would be written off by state governments.

Tree in Calcutta catches fire and becomes a shrine

CALCUTTA, May 18. (Reuters): A 50-year-old tree standing in a Calcutta municipal park burst into flames a few months ago and is now famous as a Hindu shrine.

For believers, it has become the abode of Hindu god Shiva the destroyer who wears a cobra snake as a necklace.

The tree's transformation to divine repository was sudden. It caught fire in January and after the blaze was put out bystanders were astonished to see through a split in the trunk that inside was a stone object resembling a lingam, the phallic symbol of Shiva.

It was too big to have been placed in the tree trunk through the aperture and people believed it had materialised from within.

Harendra Nath Patra, a gardener who has lived for several years in a tiny house in the shadow of the tree, said: "It suddenly caught fire on January 21. We called the fire brigade and they began spraying water to put out the fire."

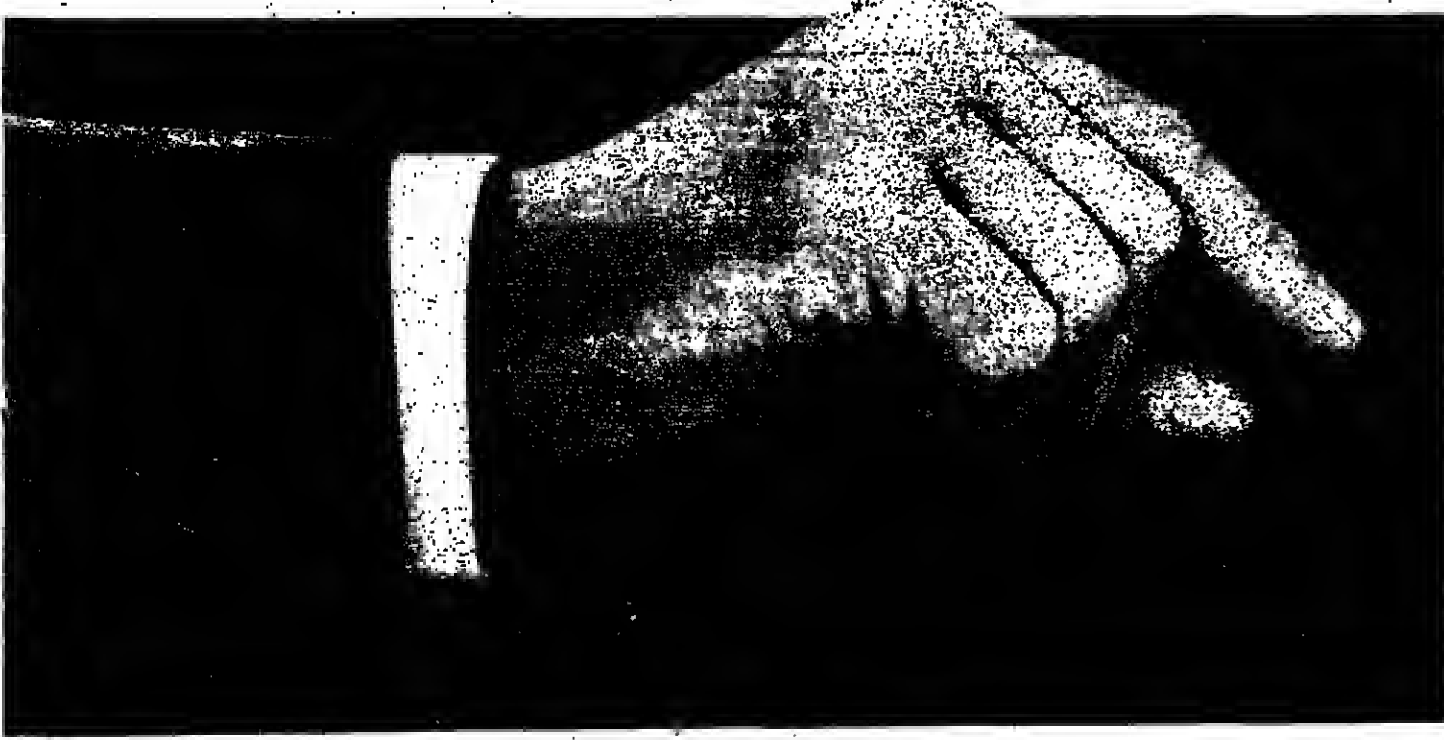
"Then we saw a white snake come out of the crack. We looked inside and found the Shiva

lingam."

As word spread about the lingam, worshippers of Shiva began to gather in the park.

"People began to say 'god has emerged' and the prayers began. I also pray here," Patra said.

Wealthy businessmen from the Marwari community, originally from the desert lands of Rajasthan, were among the first to come to pray that their ventures be blessed with success. Women and children began daily rituals of prayer.



EEC urged to reassess policy

De Klerk tours UK

LONDON, May 18. (Reuters): South African President F.W. de Klerk meets Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the staunchest ally of his apartheid reform programme, in Britain this weekend.

But his talks with Thatcher, the only European leader to unilaterally ease and apartheid sanctions in response to his reform drive, could coincide with the biggest protests of his 18-day European tour.

In a last-minute upgrade of his welcome, De Klerk was met at London's Heathrow airport late yesterday by British deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Officials said De Klerk would spend today mainly in private meetings with businessmen and diplomats.

They said he would see Thatcher at her Chequers country retreat tomorrow to brief her of his progress towards the dismantling of apartheid.

De Klerk has won praise and cautious promises of support in France, Greece, Portugal and Belgium for his initiatives including direct talks with Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

He is also asking the European Economic Community (EEC) to reassess its policy of stiff anti-apartheid sanctions. He says they are hampering his ability to implement change in South Africa.

Thatcher, who has long questioned the effectiveness of economic sanctions for political pressure, was the first Western government leader to invite De Klerk to visit after he announced sweeping reforms on February 2.

In a far-reaching address to parliament, De Klerk lifted a 30-



Youth rally

Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela told the world community on Thursday it was too soon to lift economic and political sanctions against South Africa.

He told a youth rally in Algiers that South African President F.W. de Klerk, who has pledged to end apartheid gradually, had not yet done enough.

"There are various countries in Europe, unfortunately even in Africa, which feel De Klerk has done enough to compel us to lift sanctions. We do not agree," Mandela told thousands of cheering youths after a concert of modern Algerian music.

Mandela and his wife Winnie raise their arms in a victory salute at the end of the youth rally. (Reuters wirephoto)

year-old ban on the ANC and announced the release of Mandela after 27 years in jail.

Mandela is due to visit Thatcher in London soon.

Veteran anti-apartheid campaigner Mike Terry told reporters in Brussels yesterday where he had a small protest against De Klerk's visit to Belgium and the European Econ-

omic Community, that the white Afrikaner leader would face tough opposition in Britain.

Israeli newspaper and radio reports said today that South African President F.W. de Klerk would visit the Jewish state next month but the South African embassy said no date had been fixed.

Doe urges Liberians to fight

MONROVIA, May 18. (Reuters): President Samuel Doe made a desperate appeal today to all Liberians, even old men, to use any weapons they could find to fight rebels poised to topple him.

He also vowed to fight rebel leader Charles Taylor if he carried out his threat to attack the capital Monrovia.

"If you are a loyal citizen then go out and defend your country," he told a meeting of tribal and political chiefs.

Doe, wearing his general's uniform and speaking without a text, called on retired soldiers to re-enlist, and on old men and women and students to take up arms.

"If the rebels will not surrender I will make them surrender," he said.

Doe has frequently vowed to crush the rebels since they invaded Liberia's northeast Nimba county last December.

From just 150 men armed with everything from bazookas to bows and arrows the rebels have grown to a 5,000-strong force.

Doe has recruited 3,000 youngsters into his 5,800-man army since March but they have folded before a two-prong rebel onslaught west and south of Nimba.

The guerrillas are now within a few km (miles) of Liberia's second city Gbanga.



GOVERNMENT WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES

World News Roundup

America

Star wars theft: A marine corps sergeant has been charged with stealing government property and accused of taking two computers and 60 floppy disks of secret data from the "star wars" office at the Pentagon, the Defense Department announced. (AP)

6-legged walking robot: A six-legged, 12-foot-tall (3.7-metre-tall) walking robot designed for NASA to explore rugged terrain on Mars and the moon took its first steps at Carnegie Mellon University, the school announced Thursday in Pittsburgh.

Nasa sets launch date: Nasa on Thursday set May 30 as a possible target launch date for space shuttle Columbia, grounded for several weeks because of a bad cooling valve that had to be replaced. (AP)

US arts awards: Novelist E.L. Doctorow, humourist Garrison Keillor and 43 other artists, writers, composers and architects were honoured Wednesday by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. (AP)

Sammy Davis Jr tributes: Fans and stars, led by Frank Sinatra and Shirley Maebaine, paid tribute to Sammy Davis Jr, the entertainment world's "Mr Wonderful" who died on Wednesday after an eight-month battle with throat cancer. (Reuters)

Muppet movie: Despite the death of Jim Henson, Fox's Muppet movie will go ahead. The film, which will be a 3-D muppet movie, will be produced as planned, a Disney spokesman said. (AP)

Aggressive pneumonia killed: Henson: Muppet creator Jim Henson was killed by an unusually quick-spreading form of bacterial pneumonia, a doctor who treated him said.

Dr David M. Gelmont, director of intensive care at New York hospital, Cornell Medical Centre in New York, said the 55-year-old puppeteer apparently was healthy until coming with flu-like symptoms Friday. (AP)

Plane designer Drzewiecki dies: George Drzewiecki, a Polish-born engineer who designed Poland's first plane to cross the Atlantic, died in Ottawa, he was 87. Drzewiecki, who died Tuesday in a local hospital, moved to Ottawa after World War II. The cause of death was not given. (AP)

Animal abuse: A Soviet touring circus that shut down last week of its animal languishing "like sardines" in cramped transport cages for several weeks, and there is little hope of relief soon, the Humane Society said Thursday in Newark, New Jersey. (AP)

Reagan praises nation: Former president Ronald Reagan, claiming the United States was "predestined to carry the lamp of freedom for the world," said Friday the nation should remain "bold and brash in our democratic ideals."

US to install detectors: The Federal Aviation Administration is going ahead with the installation of six plastic bomb detectors at US airports despite evidence the devices would have missed the explosive that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 in December, 1988. But FAA administrator James Busey told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that he would wait for further tests by scientists and engineers before requiring airlines to buy 150 of the \$1 million devices. (Reuters)

Boeing wheel falls off: Urgent checks have been ordered on Boeing 737s after a steering wheel came off in a co-pilot's hands during a flight, the Federal Aviation Administration said on Thursday. The FAA has issued an emergency order to operators of 378 Boeing 737s built in the past two years after the incident aboard a West German airliner. Published reports said there were no passengers on the plane at the time. (Reuters)

Pentagon to recommend: A Pentagon task force is recommending that the government spend \$100 million a year to develop advanced video systems such as high-definition TV, a published report said Thursday. That would be a 10-fold increase over what the Pentagon agency charged with HDTV development sought and received this year for advanced TV research. (AP)

Son sought in kin slayings: Police on Thursday sought a man whose elderly parents' bodies were found in the trunk of an abandoned car, along with that of his 93-year-old grandmother, authorities said. The bodies were discovered Wednesday in a car registered to one of the victims, Forest James, 78, officials said. Also killed were James' wife, Una, 72, and her mother. (AP)

Polhill voice box removed: Freed American hostage Robert Polhill had his cancerous larynx — the voice box — removed on Thursday and surgeons said his condition was good with full recovery expected. A spokesman at Walter Reed army medical centre said Polhill, 56, was resting after the four-hour operation. (Reuters)

US networks boycott: The major American television networks — ABC, CBS and NBC — boycotted the "Photo opportunities" at the White House Wednesday because of new curbs on the number of cameras allowed to film the events. (UPI)

Trek for PoWs: A small army of US military veterans on motorcycles began a cross-country trek Wednesday to draw attention to American soldiers still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. (UPI)

Herald new Bible: Church leaders and theologians in Pittsburgh heralded the arrival of the new revised standard version of the Bible, changed to eliminate some masculine references and clarify verses. (AP)

New Bible heralded: Church leaders and theologians in Pittsburgh heralded the arrival of the new revised standard version of the Bible, changed to eliminate some masculine references and clarify verses. "The new translation will bring the word of God to many, both inside and outside the churches, in fresh language," commissioner Thomas Best of the World Council of Churches said in a cable from Geneva, Switzerland. (AP)

Former girlfriend

Jilted lover kills

SEATTLE, May 18, (AP) — An Iranian army deserter stalked and murdered his ex-girlfriend and her new lover because "if he couldn't have her, nobody could," a prosecutor said in opening statements.

Prosecuting attorney Katherine Goater said yesterday Azizollah Mazooni shot his former girlfriend Marjan Mohseninia, 18, and her companion Ebrahim Sharif-Kashani, 27, because he would not accept her rejection.

Mazooni and Mohseninia became involved in 1988, but Marjan later ended the relationship to go out with an American she met while studying at Sacramento city college. Mazooni continued to trail her, threaten her, and at one point appeared to have beaten her, Goater said.

The case is "a set of facts on an age-old theme of love and rejection," Goater told the seven-woman, five-man, King County superior court jury. "The defendant's pride, selfishness and jealousy refused to let him accept her rejection of him."

Mazooni, 24, faces two counts of aggravated first-degree murder in the July 25, 1989, deaths. The two were shot down the morning of July 25, 1989, on the University of Washington campus before dozens of onlookers.

Mazooni is being held in the King County jail without bail. He does not have a prior criminal record. Prosecutors said they would not seek the death penalty in the case.



Mitterrand honoured

The last survivor of a Polynesian dynasty pledged allegiance to France on Thursday in a ceremony to honour visiting French President Francois Mitterrand.

Mitterrand's stop in Rurutu, which straddles the tropic of Capricorn, was the first visit by a French president to the Austral Islands, one of the five island clusters that comprise French Polynesia.

In a dim, high-roofed ancestral cave, the great grandson of King Tautuani IV, who ceded the 10-km (six-mile) long island of Rurutu to France in 1900, handed over the dynasty's last book of traditional laws.

"We are giving you these laws for safe-keeping," said Mitterrand's aide. "They no longer have any value for us because we are now full French citizens." (Reuters wirephoto)

Europe

Thatcher old-fashioned: UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was accused Friday of being out of touch with the "real women" of Britain.

The criticism came from a UK opposition politician, but from a woman MP belonging to the prime minister's own Conservative Party.

The Conservative MP Theresa Gorman accused the prime minister of being old-fashioned and swimming against the tide of modern thinking about women. (Kuna)



'Au Moulin de la Galette' (Reuters telephoto)

Renoir fetches \$78m

Second most expensive painting

NEW YORK, May 18, (Reuters) — A Renoir painting of an outdoor Parisian dance hall that some thought might sell for more than \$100 million went for \$78.1 million at Sotheby's auction house last night.

The price set a record for a Renoir but fell \$4.4 million short of the record for the world's most expensive painting, set on Tuesday at Christie's when Van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr Gachet" fetched \$82.5 million.

"Au Moulin de la Galette," by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, sold to an unidentified bidder after 10 minutes of tension-filled bidding from two potential buyers on the telephone. The bidding jumped up in million-dollar increments and the crowd gasped and broke into applause when the hammer finally came down.

"Galette" became the second most expensive painting of all time surpassing the \$53.9 million that Van Gogh's "Irises" fetched in 1987 when it set a record that stood until last Tuesday. The Van Gogh painting sold in New York for

Charles West must pay: Prince Charles called on developed nations to help their poorer neighbour pay for protecting the environment and said the destruction of the world's resources was biological suicide.

Speaking on the first day of a conference on the controlled management rather than destruction of rain forests, the prince said a code of conduct should be developed with royalties paid by developed nations. (AP)

1,300 Aids women in UK: The number of women in the UK who have developed Aids doubled last year, it was reported in London Thursday.

Anne Johnson, epidemiologist at the Middlesex hospital in London, was cited by the UK media as saying 117 British women are now known to have developed the deadly disease, while 1,300 others have been found to be infected with the virus. (Kuna)

More UK girls smoking: A new survey among English schoolchildren has revealed that more girls are taking to the habit of smoking than boys, it was reported in London Thursday.

By the age of 15, 24 per cent of girls are smoking regularly, compared with only 17 per cent of boys, according to the survey, conducted by the UK health education authority.

Of the 10,000 nine to 15-year-olds questioned, more than 60 per cent had tried smoking by the age of 15 and 20 per cent had become regular smokers by the same age, the survey found. (Kuna)

Soviet typhoon leaves 9 dead: A typhoon swept through eastern Siberia, killing nine people and destroying about 700 homes, the official Soviet News Agency Tass reported Thursday.

The storm Wednesday ravaged thousands of square kilometres (miles) in the Irkutsk region about 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles) east of Moscow, causing an estimated \$160 million in damage, Tass said. (AP)

12 arrested in Milan: Italian police said on Thursday they had arrested 12 people, three of them senior businessmen, on charges of running a Mafia-linked drug trafficking ring and laundering the proceeds.

Milan police said they had identified 40 financial and real estate companies in northern Italy and Sicily that had been used to recycle hundreds of millions of dollars of profits from the illicit narcotics trade. (Reuters)

Fire destroys Katarina church: The 336-year-old Katarina church, one of Stockholm's most famous buildings, was completely destroyed in a fire Thursday.

The fire, believed to have been preceded by an explosion, started in the church entrance at midnight and three hours later the entire building collapsed in the flames. (UPI)

Swedish navy searches: The Swedish Navy has dropped anti-submarine grenades in the Stockholm archipelago after indications of

foreign underwater activities, a Defence Ministry statement said Wednesday.

The navy picked up acoustic indications during a training mission in the archipelago late Tuesday evening and dropped the grenades some few kilometres inside Swedish territory. (UPI)

Wrongly addressed bomb, returned: A parcel bomb mailed by Basque guerrillas was sent back to the post office it came from because it was wrongly addressed.

Police said on Wednesday they detonated the parcel, containing 100 grammes (four ounces) of a powerful explosive, after workers at Burgos post office in northern Spain raised the alarm. (Reuters)

November 17 claim attacks: The November 17 leftist terrorist group claimed responsibility early Thursday for a series of explosions in a luxury suburb.

The group said that it had planted 23 incendiary devices Tuesday in the northern suburb of Ekahl as the first step in a war on tax evasion. In a statement sent to the Socialist daily Epikaerita. (AP)

Drug abuse soars: Muggings and drug offences increased in West Germany last year but the overall crime rate stayed stable, Police said on Thursday in Bonn.

Statistics showed 4.3 million crimes were reported in 1989, about the same as the year before. Nearly half were cleared up, according to police figures released by the Interior Ministry. (Reuters)

British church votes: Ireland's main Protestant Church agreed on Thursday to the ordination of women priests in a revolutionary move that could block reconciliation with Roman Catholics.

A general synod of the Church of Ireland, which belongs to the 70-million strong Anglican community, passed proposals to accept women into the priesthood by a narrow majority on Tuesday. (Reuters)

French gunman arrested: An armed man was arrested on Thursday after forcing police to release his girlfriend by seizing two women magistrates.

The 23-year-old gunman seized the magistrates at a courthouse in Metz, eastern France, but released them unharmed when police fired his girlfriend. (Reuters)

France's TGV tops own record: France's high-speed TGV train broke its own world speed record for the second time in 10 days on Friday when it reached a speed of just over 515 kilometres per hour (322 miles per hour), the SNCF national railways said.

The new record of 515.3 kph, set near Tours, five kph (three mph) faster than last week's record on the same line, the SNCF added. (Reuters)

Abducted teacher killed: The body of a Thai teacher who was kidnapped by Muslim separatists for ransom was found along a road in the mountains of southern Thailand on Thursday, police said.

Preecha Sae Lim, 33, was kidnapped on May 5 by guerrillas demanding 200,000 baht (\$8,000) in ransom. Police said he was stabbed to death. Four thousand teachers went on strike in southern Thailand province on Tuesday demanding Preecha's release. (Reuters)

HK worker charged with kidnap: A Hong Kong construction worker was charged on Thursday with kidnapping a millionaire and holding him for ransom.

Tse Kwok Keung, 24, appeared in court and was formally charged with forcefully taking and detaining 60-year-old property magnate Teh-Huei against his will with intention to procure a ransom. He made no plea.

Wang, who was kidnapped for the second time in seven years, is still missing despite his family's payment of \$30 million US as part of the ransom demand, a police officer told the court. (Reuters)

Expedition on the rocks: A Hovercraft taking a Sino-British expedition to trace the source of the Yangtze, China's longest river, has run onto rocks but no one was injured, the China News Service (CNS) said on Friday.

The British-built vessel, carrying team members, was buffeted by strong winds and snowstorms and hurtled against the rocky west bank of the Jinsha Jiang, a tributary of the Yangtze river in China's central province of Sichuan, on Tuesday. (Reuters)

Akihito speech not a 'political': Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Friday that his government does not intend to use the pending speech by Emperor Akihito to welcome visiting South Korean President Roh Tae Woo as a "political tool."



Big cats on show

Sydney's Taronga Zoo's new big cat exhibits, Snow Leopards Manger and Shimu, pictured yesterday, as they went on display for the first time. The Snow Leopards who originate from the Himalayas have been housed in an

enclosure built to offer close simulation with their Himalayan environment. (Reuters wirephoto)

Explosive end

Marriage

BOGOTA, May 18, (Reuters) — A Colombian man, infuriated that his wife hadn't washed his shirt, tried to blow up his house with his wife in it, a newspaper said on Wednesday.

Luis Alfonso Borda was enraged on Monday when he found he had no clean clothes for work, the Bogota newspaper El Tiempo said.

Forgetting 13 years of marriage, Borda went out to the garage to get 13 sticks of dynamite he had saved from years as a construction worker and prepared to blow up his house in a suburb of the capital. As he went to find a fuse to connect to the dynamite, his wife fled.

When the police arrived, Borda had everything ready and was only waiting for his wife to return to detonate the dynamite, the newspaper said.

Borda said it was only a normal household argument but the police thought differently. They are investigating charges against him under the anti-terrorism act for illegal possession of explosives.



Battle oil slick

Workers with bulldozers and shovels were struggling to clear some of southern England's most popular holiday beaches on Thursday after more oil washed ashore from a supertanker.

Clean-up teams were mounting a big anti-pollution operation to protect 15 miles (25 km) of Devon coastline from an oil slick released after the Liberian-registered Rosebay and a local fishing trawler collided.

Wildlife experts said hundreds of seabirds had been affected since the first oil came ashore on Tuesday.

Weathermen said the slick had been contained within Bigbury Bay, east of Plymouth, but any change in wind direction could threaten more of the picturesque coastline.

Emergency officer Ken Reynolds said: "We are solidating on but we know that with high tides every 12 hours the oil will keep coming in as fast as we can clear it."

Above: Soraya Kendall samples oil which washed ashore. (Reuters wirephoto)

24, would not deviate from the framework of matters of state performed by the emperor, as stipulated in the constitution. (Kuna)

Quake hits Japan: A powerful earthquake registering an estimated 6.0 on the Richter Scale hit southwestern Japan Friday morning, the central meteorological agency said.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries from the 8:28 am (1:28 GMT Thursday) undersea tremor, local police said. (AP)

China cracks drug ring: Police have smashed an international drug smuggling ring, arresting 51 people and seizing large amounts of heroin, in China's biggest narcotics case since the 1949 revolution, state radio reported on Friday.

Police arrested six men from Hong Kong, three Burmese nationals and one person from the Portuguese-administered territory of Macau as well as 41 Chinese, the official report said. (Reuters)

Fijian Christian jailed: The leader of a group of Fijian Christians who set three Hindu temples and a mosque on fire was sentenced on Friday to four years in prison.

Haitia Rawagawawa, 28, admitted arson charges at his trial in Lautoka on the main Fijian island of Viti Levu, court sources said. He was granted bail pending a sentence appeal. (Reuters)

Latin America

Cuban exiles plan flotilla: Hundreds of flag-waving exiles and Bay of Pigs veterans, heartened by the demise of communism in Eastern Europe, will take to the high seas on Sunday in a US flotilla bound for Cuban waters to mark Cuban Independence day.

The sea-going demonstrators, representing several anti-Castro groups, will venture to within 13 miles of Cuban shores but will stay in international waters to avoid provoking government forces, organisers said. (Reuters)

Cuba ends exercises: Cuba, saying US military activity around the island had returned to normal, ended a two-week-old defence exercise on Thursday that had mobilised its regular armed forces, reservists and militia. Havana launched the Cuban shield exercise on May 2 in response to what it said was a threatening buildup of US naval, air and amphibious forces engaged in simultaneous manoeuvres in the Atlantic and the Caribbean. (Reuters)

'Operation Pincer' successful: Cuba said on Wednesday its security forces have launched a drive against international drug trafficking and captured 12 suspected smugglers operating from Florida, two of whom said they worked for US police or customs.

In a half-hour video shown on foreign reporters, "the interior Ministry said the anti-drug sweep, called Operation Pincer, had netted more than a tonne of cocaine dropped by light planes from Colombia since the beginning of the year. (Reuters)

Noriega co-defendant sentenced: A minor co-defendant of former Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega was sentenced Thursday to 30 months in prison for transporting \$800,000 in drug profits from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Panama.

Eduardo Pardo, who pleaded guilty in February to the only federal charge against him, is the first Noriega co-defendant to be sentenced. (UPI)

Access to Noriega records: Panama has ordered the US Army to give Panamanian auditors access to documents captured from ousted military ruler Manuel Noriega's offices during the US invasion, officials said Thursday.

The order was issued by a branch of the court's office that deals with property matters. It calls for Gen. Marc A. Cisneros, who commands US Army forces in Panama, to grant government auditors unrestricted access to documents and computer files captured from Noriega's headquarters.

"We have a right to have access to those documents," said Judge Eduardo Lombana at a press conference Thursday. (UPI)

Llora leads in Lima: Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa leads Alberto Fujimori by nearly 5 percentage points in the most recent survey of voters in and around Lima, three weeks before a presidential runoff election.

The centre-right Vargas Llosa is favoured by 46.3 per cent of voters, to 41.7 per cent who support the centrist Fujimori, according to a poll of 484 people made last weekend by the private firm datum.

The poll has a 4.6 per cent margin of error. The survey showed a sharp drop in support for Fujimori, a 51-year-old agricultural engineer and political newcomer. Three weeks earlier, a datum poll of capital-area residents showed Fujimori leading Vargas Llosa by 47.5 per cent to 44.0 per cent. (AP)

Turn to coca leaf: Nearly half of Peru's coffee growers have abandoned the crop to plant coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine, a Peruvian newspaper reported on Thursday.

Coffee producers, tired of low prices for the crop and attracted by the booming cocaine trade, have turned to coca leaf in the Andean foothills where both crops thrive, said the Lima daily El Comercio.

About 40 per cent of Peru's coffee growers had replaced coffee with coca leaf, and coffee producers would need a government loan of at least \$3 million to prevent more from turning to coca, said the newspaper, quoting leaders of coffee growers' associations.

Menem attends Jewish service: Argentine President Carlos Menem, a son of Muslim Syrians, on Thursday went to a synagogue to attend a service called to protest against desecrations of Jewish graveyards in Europe.

Menem joined other Argentine politicians, some of them of Jewish stock, in the service organised by local Jewish groups. "This is proof of the Argentines' solidarity with this part of the international community that has been so savagely offended," Menem told reporters.

Authorities of Argentina's largest province, Buenos Aires, have ordered police to beef up security around Jewish places of worship, the official news agency Telam said. It did not specify if any attacks had been reported. (Reuters)

Arab or Jew, it's all the same to France's xenophobes

PARIS, May 18, (Reuters): "Dirty Jew dirty Arab" spat the masked attackers. It was all the same to them.

The assault on a high school teacher who was beaten for lecturing against racism and anti-Semitism epitomised contemporary right-wing xenophobia in France.

It equates French Jews with North African Arab immigrants as alien parasites.

But its attacks on the latter are far more overt because the racists sense that whereas very few French would admit to a prejudice against Jews, many present the Arabs, race relations experts say.

The teacher, Christiane Guirard of Emile Zola College in Royan, near Bordeaux, is neither Arab nor Jew.

She was attacked on Monday for instructing pupils that, in France, racism is not an opinion but a crime.

She was pointing out that racism often goes hand-in-hand with anti-Semitism, that it can lead to outrages such as the May 10 desecration of the Jewish cemetery in the southern town of Carpentras, in which a body was dug up and impaled.

A national outcry over the incident prompted the media to turn their attention to all

manifestations of anti-Semitism.

This narrow focus in turn prompted race relations experts and leading politicians to point out that the Carpentras attack should not obscure the fact that Arabs and Africans are the main victims of French xenophobia.

Racism and anti-Semitism were inextricably linked, they said. Unless they were combated as a single evil and not with selective outrage, the problem would grow.

When the National Assembly (Parliament) observed a minute's silence on Wednesday for the Carpentras victims, Speaker Laurent Fabius, a former prime minister of Jewish

descent, said the shameful attack "did not happen on its own."

It was preceded by other acts, committed against other communities and by a climate—the twisting of history, so-called innocent jokes, insults, verbal aggression.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard said previous attacks "had less impact but were no less serious."

Politicians, contemporary historians and race relations specialists said the desecration had drawn public attention to anti-Semitism.

More than 100,000 people—among them President Francois Mitterrand and Rocard

—took to the streets of Paris on Monday to demonstrate against anti-Semitism.

The Carpentras incident had provided a shock to galvanise public resistance to insidious far-right propaganda, but would it last?

"If they had demonstrated in such numbers against the attacks on (Arab) immigrants there would perhaps not have been this rise in overt anti-Semitism," said Malik Bouhij.

Mitterrand warned against race hatred after attacks on North African youths in mid-March left one dead, another in an irreversible coma and a third paralysed.

"Anti-Arab racism goes much deeper here than anti-Semitism. There is only a minority against it, whereas anti-Semitism is generally condemned," said historian Madeleine Reberioz.

"Arab and African immigrants are the people most threatened by racism in their daily lives," she added.

Bouhij agreed there was "not the same consensus in France" against anti-immigrant racism as against anti-Semitism.

But both said the two currents were part of the same rising tide of xenophobia, fuelled by the extreme-right national front.



Rally

Political campaigning ended Friday as Romania prepared for its first free elections since 1937, after a series of rallies marked by fistfights and scuffles.

The candidates were observing a mandated two-day silence prior to Sunday's vote, in which nearly 17 million voters are to choose a president and a 506-seat bicameral Parliament.

Interim President Ion Iliescu (shown above flashing the 'V' sign) and his National Salvation Front are heavily favoured to win both votes.

The new Parliament is to sit for only 18 months at the most in order to devise a new constitution. New elections are to be held under that constitution within one year of its promulgation.

As the campaign ended, disaffected workers, students and others continued to protest on a Bucharest square against the Front-led government, which they accused of seeking to perpetuate authoritarian, communist-style rule.

Romania's ex-king Michael called on Thursday for the postponement of next Sunday's Romanian elections and condemned violence during the campaign.

"I condemn the way in which the electoral campaign is currently being carried out in my country," he said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Signs of Slavic break-up

BELGRADE, May 18, (Reuters): Yugoslavia moved closer to breaking up today after the rebel republics of Croatia and Slovenia said they would defy the federal communist leaders in a bid for independence.

A crisis that President Borisav Jovic says could end in civil war deepened when the two non-communist republics dismissed a warning by the collective state presidency that it would take urgent steps to hold the country together.

"We reject the unconstitutional and contradictory statement which denies the constitutionally guaranteed sovereignty of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia," Croatian and Slovene leaders said in a joint statement late yesterday.

Croatia and Slovenia, wealthy and relatively Westernised regions in northern Yugoslavia voted out the communists in the first free elections in Yugoslavia since World War Two.

Their victorious right of centre parties want independence from the federal authorities in Belgrade and threaten to secede from Yugoslavia if their demands are not met.

Their joint declaration of defiance, issued after talks near the Slovene-Croatian border, raised tension and widened the split between the non-communist north and communist-ruled south.

Western diplomats said the confrontation could spell the end of Yugoslavia.

"This could end up in complete strife,"

Slovenia and Croatia say Serbia, the biggest republic, wants control over the rest of the country. They say Jovic, a Serb who became president on Tuesday by annual rotation, wants to block democratic reforms in their republics.

Shipyard workers stage brief strike

GDANSK, May 18, (AP): Shipyard labourers rallied today to protest their pay, but returned to work after solidarity leader Lech Walesa told them to give their representatives time to solve their problems.

"I can whistle too, but I wouldn't have achieved anything that way," said Walesa.

"If we are anarchical like this, the entire world will turn its back on us as for not being serious," he said.

Two Germanys sign economic union pact

'This is a historic hour,' says Kohl

BONN, May 18, (AP): The two German nations signed a historic treaty today that will make them a single economic entity in less than seven weeks and plunge East Germany into the rigours of capitalism.

The signing means that as of July 2, when the treaty takes effect, in many ways the four-decade division of Germany will have come to an end.

But the thorny issue of the military status of a united Germany remains to be solved, with the Soviet Union flatly rejecting NATO membership for a joined country.

By signing the treaty, Kohl said, the leaders of two freely elected German governments were declaring a wish to build a future together "as one people, one nation, in one free and democratic state."

While he said difficult moments lay ahead in the transition, problems will be tackled as they arise.

"After decades, a dream is becoming reality: the dream of the unity of Germany and Europe," Kohl declared. "What we are living through here is the birth of a free and united Germany."

Under the treaty, the strong West German currency called the mark will become East Germany's currency. All monetary affairs will be controlled by West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank.

East Germany will be required to start selling off state-owned property under the treaty to help cover reconstruction costs.

De Maiziere said that not all "flowery dreams" of East Germans will be fulfilled with the treaty, "but no one will be worse off than before."

"Which other country gets such a good starting position as we with this treaty?" he said.

In a ceremony freighted with symbolism, West German Finance Minister Theodor Waigel and his East German counterpart, Walter Romberg, signed the treaty in the former office of Konrad Adenauer.

Adenauer guided West Germany's economic rebirth as its first chancellor following World War II and led the state firmly into the Western alliance. He governed from 1949 to 1963.

The so-called "state treaty" between East and West Germany is the crowning achievement to date of Kohl's efforts to achieve an expedited unification of the two Germanys.

The treaty came just two months after East Germany's first free elections, and little more than six months after the Berlin Wall was opened, symbolically ending the division of Germany.

Under the provisions of the document, East Germany will receive large-scale assistance from West Germany in exchange for scrapping its moribund, centralised economy for a free market system.

East Germany, overwhelmed by an influx of poor Romanian migrants, barred Romanians today from visiting without invitations.

Government spokeswoman Angela Merkel said the decision was reached at a meeting of conservative Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's coalition cabinet.

Bush meets with Kohl

WASHINGTON, May 18, (AP): President George Bush, completing a series of pre-summit meetings with allied leaders, said yesterday a united Germany must exercise full control over its territory and not be singled out of special status.

Bush voiced strong opposition to a Soviet proposal that a reunified Germany be neutral, or a member of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact, after a meeting with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

It was Bush's final meeting with Western leaders in advance of his May 30-June 3 summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

At a news conference after his meeting with Bush, Kohl stressed that attempts to block NATO membership for a united Germany would be an infringement on the country's sovereignty.

In recent weeks, Bush also met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, French President Francois Mitterrand and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

The issue of German reunification is expected to be high on the agenda at the Bush-Gorbachev talks.



Baker (left) looks to Shevardnadze (leaning right) as the two sit down to negotiate arms control in Moscow May 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

Baker reports progress

Hinders reforms

Fear of change

MOSCOW, May 18, (AP): US Secretary of State James Baker reported progress today after talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, but said the superpowers still hadn't forged an agreement on reducing their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons.

After meeting with Gorbachev, Baker took time out from the arms-control talks to meet with Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene, who was in Moscow trying to persuade the Soviet president to open negotiations on her republic's bid for independence. Baker then returned to the bargaining table with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The US and Soviet negotiators are trying to reach an agreement on reducing the superpowers' arsenals of long-range missiles, bombers and submarines in time for Gorbachev's summit with US President George Bush in Washington from May 31-June 3.

"We made some progress," Baker said after his talks with Gorbachev. "We still have a number of issues that are still out there."

Asked if agreement on key issues would be ready for the summit, Baker replied, "We keep hoping we can accomplish that."

Earlier today in the Kremlin, Gorbachev said the Soviets were doing their best to slither together an agreement. The Bush administration had accused the Soviets of backtracking on their earlier positions before Baker arrived in Moscow on Tuesday.

The Soviet leader said he did not know if an agreement would be ready in time for the Washington summit, but told reporters, "I think we are moving closer."

Mixed signals also came from the US side, where officials spoke both of continuing gaps and of hopes for an accord. Without a compromise on air and sea-launched cruise missiles and other disputed weapons, the summit will lack the dramatic centrepiece

Stevens said after publishing his report. But the leaks were restricted to a small number of individuals who had gravely abused their positions of trust, he said.

The inquiry was started last September after Protestant extremists fighting to keep Northern Ireland British said they used security files to identify a Catholic adversary, whom they then shot dead at his home.

The scandal set off a big Anglo-Irish row, with Dublin calling for reforms in the Ulster Defence Regiment, drawn mainly from local recruits. It is predominantly Protestant and deeply mistrusted by nationalists.

"Certain members of the Ulster Defence Regiment have been involved in collusion with loyalist paramilitaries," the report said.

It recommended tighter vetting and screening procedures for new recruits to the controversial regiment, especially those living in Protestant ghettos of Belfast.

Stevens said the security forces had produced extensive intelligence files over the 20 years of the Northern Ireland conflict but there had been a serious lack of control in distributing these documents.

"Special Soviet troops are being sent to the restive Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia to help to keep order after riots in their capitals, Tass said today.

Gorbachev had not met with any representatives of Lithuania in the more than two months since the republic declared independence. Instead, he applied economic pressure, including a virtual blockade of fuel, other raw materials and manufactured goods.

Asked to respond to analysts who say he is having trouble keeping his head above water, Gorbachev shot back: "They should follow closely what is happening in the Soviet Union, and they should objectively reflect on what is happening in this country."

Polish leaders made quick, dramatic changes in Poland's subsidised economy in hopes of shortening the transition from communism to a market economy, but the reforms brought sudden price increases and greater unemployment.

Gorbachev has promised that nothing will be decided without discussion. He also indicated the reform programme will not be discussed with his advisory presidential council until May 22.

The Soviet leader spoke with reporters in the Kremlin's ornate St George's Hall during a break at the Congress of the Russian Federation, where reformers forced his candidate for president into giving an accounting of his performance as premier.

Radicals have predicted that such an accounting would be embarrassing, given the country's economic crisis. They also predicted they could persuade Gorbachev to withdraw his candidature, Russian Premier Alexander V. Vlasov, from the race against political maverick Boris N. Yeltsin and substitute a more centrist candidate.

Otherwise, Gorbachev risks allowing Russia to be led by Yeltsin, the silver-haired Siberian populist who is his most popular critic.

Bush and Gorbachev had anticipated.

By meeting with the Lithuanian prime minister, Baker gave at least symbolic US support to the Baltic republic's independence drive.

"We are still very hopeful, as we have been for some time, that a dialogue can begin," Baker said of the long-held US hope that the

Talks to resolve Baltics dispute

MOSCOW, May 18, (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev said today the Kremlin was prepared to examine any possibility to resolve the dispute over Lithuanian independence — provided the Soviet constitutional process is observed.

The prime minister of the breakaway republic, Kazimiera Prunskiene, met with Gorbachev yesterday and said afterward that significant progress was made toward a settlement. But neither side suggested that the dispute that followed the republic's March 11 declaration of independence had been settled.

Today Mrs Prunskiene met with US Secretary of State James Baker, who has said the Baltic impasse was casting a shadow over the summit between Gorbachev and US President George Bush scheduled for later this month.

Baker arrived at Spaso House, the home of US Ambassador Jack Matlock, an hour and 45 minutes late, indicating that his earlier meeting with Gorbachev had gone into overtime.

In a sign of continuing tension, Lithuanian radio reported that Soviet soldiers shot to death a Lithuanian teenager who was trying to enter a military unit on Tuesday. In a broadcast monitored by the BBC, the report said two passersby also were wounded by automatic weapons fire. No other details were reported.

Military officials have complained of several rock-throwing or sniper attacks on Soviet soldiers in military installations. There had been no serious injuries reported in those incidents.

Moscow has used the military to make repeated shows of force in the breakaway republic.

Gorbachev, speaking to reporters before meeting with Baker this morning, said: "Through the constitutional process, we are ready to consider any possibility, any question."

Before her meeting with Baker, Mrs Prunskiene visited the Moscow embassies of countries she recently toured, including Scandinavia, Britain, and the United States.

She delivered letters expressing gratitude for the support she received, an official at the Lithuanian mission in Moscow said.

Mrs Prunskiene, speaking with reporters at the Lithuanian mission in Moscow after her meeting with Gorbachev yesterday, said the republic's Parliament will be called into session on Saturday to formalise the offer to suspend laws passed to implement the republic's declaration of independence.

The compromise proposal "does not mean we are returning to the situation of March 10," Mrs Prunskiene told reporters, emphasising Lithuanian determination not to back away from eventual independence.

Mrs Prunskiene was called to the Kremlin late yesterday for a one-hour and 40 minute meeting with Gorbachev and Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov.

"We moved forward very significantly," she told reporters later. She also quoted Gorbachev as noting progress.

Gorbachev had not met with any representatives of Lithuania in the more than two months since the republic declared independence. Instead, he applied economic pressure, including a virtual blockade of fuel, other raw materials and manufactured goods.

Special Soviet troops are being sent to the restive Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia to help to keep order after riots in their capitals, Tass said today.



Daniel Gurtner works to remove the spray paint from the tombstone of his 5-year-old brother's grave in the cemetery of the village of Villaret May 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

More seek to settle in Israel

French Jews

PARIS, May 18, (Agencies): Requests by French Jews to emigrate to Israel have increased dramatically since vandals desecrated a Jewish cemetery last week and mutilated a recently buried corpse, the Jewish agency said yesterday.

According to agency official Claude Laloum, 2,000 emigration requests have been received since the macabre desecration was discovered in the south-central town of Carpentras on May 10. Between Jan 1 and May 9, he said, 1,800 requests were received.

The agency, which has offices in many countries, helps make arrangements for Jews seeking to settle in Israel.

Laloum said the possibility of moving to Israel "exists in the minds of all Jews, at all times. It crystallizes when there is an emotional shock as is the case with Carpentras."

"The decision to leave France for Israel is not a way of protesting against anti-Semitism," Laloum said. "Jews have had the illusion that anti-Semitism was disappearing, but with a shock like Carpentras, the illusion shatters," Laloum said.

He said the Jewish agency receives about 4,000 to 5,000 requests yearly. About 1,300 actually leave France and settle in Israel.

Studies conducted by United Relief Agency show that 20-22 percent of France's 650,000 Jews think they could settle in Israel. About 10,000 French Jews have made their "aliyah" (return) in the past five years.

In a related development, the

governing Socialist Party announced that it temporarily had shelved plans to propose that foreigners be allowed to vote in local elections.

The main centre-right opposition parties had demanded the abandonment of this proposal as a condition for participation in a multi-party conference on immigration—which along with racism has become the country's most volatile social issue.

Le Pen's National Front favours deportation of immigrants, and the centre-right parties say the flow of immigration should be sharply restricted.

In a poll of 803 French people, conducted on Monday and Tuesday by the CSA polling firm, 35 per cent of the respondents said they thought it was acceptable that people be free to express anti-Semitic views.

Israel police said yesterday they had arrested a mentally deranged Jew on suspicion of desecrating graves in the central town of Lod, the latest in a wave of attacks on Jewish cemeteries in Europe and Israel.

The 34-year-old man, was believed to have smashed flowerpots on graves in a military and a civilian cemetery, Israel radio said. Police described him as insane.

Vandals spray-painted Nazi swastikas and Jewish stars of David on tombstones in Villaret, Switzerland cemetery, police said.

Vandals painted swastikas on about 30 tombstones in Quebec city's only Jewish cemetery on Wednesday night, mimicking the desecration of Jewish cemeteries.

Rise in deaths

Effects of radiation

WASHINGTON, May 18, (AP): Millions more Americans may have died from the effects of radiation releases from nuclear plants and bomb tests than acknowledged by the government, the authors of a new book on the health effects of radiation said on Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for the commercial nuclear industry called the claim "hysterical fear-mongering."

Benjamin A. Goldman and Jay M. Gould, authors of "deadly deceit," said their analysis of government mortality and radiation statistics showed death rates for infants and the elderly rose significantly in the aftermath of accidental radiation releases at nuclear plants in South Carolina, Connecticut and Pennsylvania in the 1970s.

Goldman, a researcher and author, and Gould, a statistician, also claim that radioactive fallout from the explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union in April 1986 accelerated the deaths of about 40,000 Americans during the summer of 1986.

No charges have been laid against members of the Northern Ireland police force, although files are being examined by the director of public prosecutions in relation to two officers.

The IRA claimed responsibility Wednesday night for a bomb blast outside an army recruiting office in Wembley in London which killed an army sergeant and seriously injured another.

The bomb exploded in a military van. A civilian woman clerk employed by the army who was waiting to get into the van and another woman who lived nearby was walking past the scene were treated for shock.

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UK security forces in Belfast, leaked information to Protestant killer gangs: police

BELFAST, May 18, (Reuters): A top police officer said yesterday that members of the British security forces in Northern Ireland had passed information on suspected Irish Republican Army guerrillas (IRA) to Protestant killer gangs.

Ninety-four people have been arrested in an investigation which uncovered over 2,500 documents including computer printouts and photographs relating to IRA members fighting to oust Britain from the province.

"I have been able to draw the firm conclusion that members of the security forces have passed information to paramilitaries," deputy chief constable John

Action Line

HOW POWERFUL is the word of a Muslim husband? Can he overrule professionals when it comes to medical treatment of his wife? Doctors have examined the wife and diagnosed her as being mentally ill, recommending constant surveillance and drug therapy. However, the husband refuses to accept that she is ill and prevents her from receiving medical treatment.

Doesn't each and everyone of us have the legal right for a healthy life? Who has the authority to help the wife particularly since all relatives are abroad? The wife herself is unable to seek outside help due to her condition.

A concerned friend

ACTUALLY, any one can intervene in such a situation and seek police assistance to get the lady to a hospital for treatment. If you go to the police and explain the case, they will summon the husband and talk to him about his wife and do the needful regarding medical treatment.

The husband is committing an offence by not allowing his wife access to medical treatment. Every individual is entitled to medical treatment. I suggest you seek police assistance.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1973 under my husband's sponsorship. If I get a job now, can I transfer my residence permit to No. 18?

J. Fernandes

THERE is no legal problem in transferring the visa to No. 18, provided you have a job and have been sponsored. You can go ahead and find a job. In case the visa is not transferred from No. 22 to 18, you can always re-enter on the fresh work permit.

CAN YOU help us? Our Sri Lankan maid went on leave and did not return. She has one year residence. We have waited for her to come back, but she hasn't. She also did not reply to our letter.

What shall we do to cancel her visa to get another maid? My husband went to the passport twice but they told us her visa cannot be cancelled without her passport.

We have a strong feeling that she may come back to work for another family for "more money". How do we find out whether she has returned or not? We have her photograph, Civil ID and passport copies.

A. Varghese

APPROACH the police station in your area and file a case of "abducting". Tell the police that she went on vacation and did not return and you suspect she has returned and will inform her address as soon as you know anything about it.

The police will give a certificate, which should be submitted to the Public Authority for Civil Information, so that they know about the case.

If she has not returned, then she won't be allowed to re-enter after six months have elapsed.

If you know the exact date she left Kuwait, you can inform the immigration authorities that she has left the country, so that if she tries to re-enter they can contact you.

I WOULD like to learn Arabic language. I am living in Mangaf. I would like to know if there is any good institute in Fahaheel or Mangaf. If you could give me the address, I will be thankful to you.

Vijay Mehta

THANK YOU for sending a self-addressed envelope. We regret to inform you that we do not give individual replies. The purpose of this column is to reach as many readers as possible.

We inquired on your behalf and found that the Fahahel Education Institute, Meesa St., near Sadaf Pharmacy, might be of help to you. It holds three-month courses (evening classes, twice a week) for beginners. Its telephone number is 3917370. There are several private institutes teaching Arabic language to foreigners in Kuwait City and Salmiya; their addresses can be found in the Kuwait Yellow Pages.

Kuwait University also holds Arabic language classes for foreigners. Registration is held twice a year; the next will be in September. The classes are held in the evenings in KU campus in Khaldiya.

I WANT to know what is "cross country"? Does anyone have a right to "cross country"? If yes, what are the necessary requirements. Please explain "cross country".

Babe

WE DON'T really know what you mean by "cross country". To our knowledge there is no such thing as "cross country", except in sport. However, if you referring to the practice of leaving the country to re-enter on a fresh visa, it is a different matter altogether.

Some expatriates who are issued with fresh visas are required to cancel their visa and re-enter Kuwait on the new document. For this, they are required to return to their country of origin to complete the formalities, like endorsements etc. at the Kuwait consulate.

A work visa is issued by the employer, who applies to the Ministry of Social Affairs for the documents.

I HOPE you'll be able to help me. I would like to know if the process of liposuction is done in Kuwait. If so, where and what is the minimum cost?

What is the minimum cost of having plastic surgery of the nose and where can it be done?

Is it possible to take out one tooth and replace it on level with other teeth in Kuwait?

I would be much obliged if you could also tell me if any of these are done free of charge anywhere and where I can get further information about my queries.

A. Woods

PLASTIC surgery, nose jobs, liposuction etc., is done free of charge in Kuwait's major hospitals like Mubarak Al Kabir and Ibn Sina. Free surgery is done on patients holding valid residence permits; if a patient is in a private room, its rentals must be paid. Doctors said it is essential to see the patient before deciding whether such surgery was necessary. Please contact the plastic surgeons in these hospitals for further assistance. It is advisable to go in person to meet them. As there are several doctors, it is not possible for us to list their names but the exception desk at these hospitals would be able to guide you. Plastic surgery is also done at such private hospitals like Hadi Clinic. Again, the doctor insists on seeing the patient before deciding on surgery and costs. We tried to get the minimum cost they refused to commit themselves saying the expense depends on the merits of individual cases. As such surgery is not inexpensive, we expect the cost to exceed KD 1,000.

Dental treatment and teeth implants are done at various private clinics and private hospitals like Mowassat in Salmiya. Several private dental clinics are located in Ras Salmiya, Kuwait City, Hawalli and other suburbs; addresses can be obtained from the Kuwait Yellow Pages.

Free dental treatment can be done at the Kuwait Dental Centre, behind Amiri Hospital, Sharq; and Public Health Ministry runs dental clinics affiliated to health centres in nearly all suburbs.

UNTIL a few years ago, the US embassy in Kuwait issued five-year multiple entry visit visas to Indian nationals. Now the maximum period given to Indians visiting the US is one year multiple entry visa. I understand that other nationals like Palestinians and Pakistanis are still given five years multiple entry.

Can you please advise through your column whether there is any specific reason for not granting Indians five-year multiple entry visas as before?

For a frequent visitor to the US, a five-year multiple entry visa would be helpful.

MM

ALL embassies reserve the right to judge the duration of any visa issued by them. It is the prerogative of most immigration officers to issue visas based on their merits of each individual case. There is no hard and fast rule on the duration of a multiple entry visa, which is issued for between one and five years.

US embassy consular officials, though contacted several times, were unavailable for comment.

Educators call to fortify younger generation

'Unify thought on Islamic basis'

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): A five-day education conference wound up sessions here with a call for more attention on school curriculums, Islamic and Arabic courses to "fortify young generations" against alien thought and enable them to face contemporary challenges.

The 20th education conference, sponsored by Kuwaiti Teachers Association under the theme "Contemporary Challenges in the Arab World and School Curriculums" also urged for further concentration on

promoting studies of Arabic language and Islamic history as means "to create an effective and capable Arab-Muslim personality."

The gathering recommended individualist and collective efforts along with private and

governmental endeavours "to unify the thought of young generations all over the Arab world on Islamic basis."

The conference appealed for re-writing of the Arab and Islamic nations' history "to give prominence to the bright

aspects", and said Islamic education as well as the Arabic language should be made compulsory courses at all school levels.

Enrollment in the teaching profession should also receive more attention and well-prepared programmes should be

formulated to qualify teachers who are required to champion keenness and understanding to their noble message.

The conference called for establishment of an Arab bureau to revise and oversee unification



Chalets visit

The director-general of the Kuwait Municipality Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah paid a visit to the Mina Abdullah Chalets recently where he met with a group of residents and discussed their problems. He continued his tour the next day and met again with another group of residents, after which he made an inspection tour of the municipality centre in Zoor and Nuwaseeb areas. Picture shows Sheikh Sabah with staff at the Zoor Municipal centre.

Agriculture conference opens today

Study cases to be reviewed

KUWAIT-BASED Arab Institution for Planning (AIP) organises a five-day conference here today to discuss agricultural policies in the Arab world in a bid to promote agricultural activities.

A press release circulated by AIP yesterday said that a number of Arab experts will take part in the meeting to review prepared study cases dealing with a number of Arab countries suffering from serious agricultural problems.

They will also prepare a list of recommendations to help Arab countries avoid such problems which resulted from not applying

appropriate policies drawn out by authoritative institutions, the release said.

It added that the experts will discuss the role of the country in regulating international and national agriculture marketing and the role of lending institution in financing agricultural ventures.

Meanwhile board chairman and director general of Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duaj Al Sabah returned home from Tabouk, Saudi Arabia, after attending the fifth session of the GCC Agricultural and Irrigation Co-operation

Committee.

Sheikh Ibrahim commended the Saudi government's agricultural policy and said he and the accompanying delegation got acquainted on Tabouk's agricultural experience where big farms of fruits, vegetables, wheat and flowers were cultivated by companies.

In a statement to Kuna, Sheikh Ibrahim added that the Saudi government has been rendering assistance and facilities to farmers in all agricultural and livestock breeding sectors, thus achieved substantive progress in the field.

He noted that Saudi incentives

to farmers include extending loans which in some cases cover about 80 per cent of farm costs.

At the two-day session, the ministers reviewed a number of issues pertaining to agricultural policy in the GCC member states.

At a dinner party held in their honour by Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, governor of Tabouk province, Prince Fahd said the Saudi government has been extending every support to farmers in the kingdom.

"We have in Tabouk region one of the most successful fruit projects in the Middle East," he said.

UAE keen on relations with Japan: Sheikh Zayed

ABU DHABI, May 18, (Kuna): President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayyan has stressed that his country's co-operation and friendship relations with Japan will actively and forcefully increase in the future and will continue for years, Radio Abu Dhabi said in a broadcast picked up here today.

Sheikh Zayed's remarks were made in a meeting in Tokyo last night with Japanese Minister of Industry and International Trade Hikaru Matsunaga, the radio said, noting that Sheikh Zayed is currently on a private visit to Japan that was preceded by an official visit for three days.

It quoted Zayed as saying that UAE is keen on developing relations with Japan to avoid any harm especially after the meeting with the Japanese emperor and officials.

Pledge

The warm relations linking Japan and UAE will be used for the welfare of both sides, Sheikh Zayed said, pledging that UAE will meet any Japanese demand of UAE's oil, the radio added.

GCC oil meet

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): Oil experts of the Gulf Co-operation Council concluded here last night their meeting at which they discussed future oil strategy of the six member states.

The two-day meeting was headed by Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs at the Oil Ministry Sheham Ruzoqi.

Market stall regulations

Shuaiba security projects planned

THE acting director-general of the Shuaiba General Authority has said that the area will be the site for a number of construction and security projects, which are scheduled to be executed in two stages.

He said that the projects set for Stage I have been completed and that the security projects to be executed in stage II involve protection work to safeguard the seafloor at the Shuaiba Industrial Area, Mina Al Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah.

He said the projects also involve land protection work surrounding the Shuaiba Industrial Area.

He said the security projects will be executed directly by the authority, under authorisation by the cabinet's Security Committee. He pointed out that work on these projects started three years ago and the work on the seafloor projects will begin within the next six months. He added that after that a study will commence on the land area computerised security for Shuaiba, and Mina Abdullah.

The minister of state for municipal affairs meanwhile has issued a decision amending a previous decision No. 54/90 regarding the operation system at the local central vegetables market in Shuaiba.

Under the new decision, use of the stalls at the market is regulated as follows:

— Operators at the market must be Kuwaitis, whether individuals or companies, and must possess a licence from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

— All importers must have a file with the market

administration containing the licences and other documents required by the administration.

— Irregular operators at the market will have to arrange for using a vacant selling stall in co-operation with the administration.

— Dealer-operator will have the right to use a stall based on the type of his merchandise and in line with the approved regulations, and will not be able to use two stalls for the same merchandise.

— Public auction for advertising seasonal merchandise will not be held except with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.

— Each dealer must submit a statement listing the names of workers and salesmen before the allocated selling stall is handed over.

— No merchandise will be displayed or sold without the related manifest.

— Each dealer will be responsible for the cleaning of his stall and will have to hand the stall back clean upon the expiry of his term in operation.

— Penalties endorsed by the decision for violations of the above-mentioned constraints include the following:

1. The dealer will be issued a notice for the first instance of violation.

2. On the second instance, the dealer will have his licence suspended for a period not over a month and not below two weeks.

3. For the same violation, the dealer will be prevented from operation for a period of six months.

490 engineering students at KU

THE head of electrical and computer engineering department at the faculty of engineering and petroleum Dr Mustafa Al Jabali said that more than 490 students are studying electrical or computer engineering at Kuwait University. He added that department admitted 140 newcomers in the academic year 1988/89 against 110 graduates. He added that about 50 engineers are studying in the master's programme of electrical engineering at the faculty.

He added that department is doing its best to develop its labs beside building new labs. "We also try to attract visiting professors and encourage the research co-operation between the department and similar departments in foreign universities," Jabali said. The department offers training courses for engineers in government and private sectors. The department has also succeeded in sending a number of Kuwaiti engineers to pursue their higher studies in famous universities to get their masters and doctorate degrees before returning to teach at the faculty.

Bahrain accedes to slave convention

UNITED NATIONS, May 18, (Kuna): Bahrain has acceded to the convention on the abolition of slavery, the slave trade and institutions and practices similar to slavery, the UN announced in a press release distributed here yesterday.

The documents of accession, received by the UN legal office on March 27, were actually to the supplementary convention on the abolition of slavery, concluded in Geneva on September 7, 1956 and came into force on April 30, 1957.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Norway's king on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Premier's cable

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has sent a cable of congratulations to the Norwegian prime minister on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received at his dawn in Bayan Palace yesterday Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

Sheikh Saad also received Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi, Minister of Electricity and Water Homoud Abdullah Al Rqobah, Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan, Planning Minister Abdul Rahim Al Awadi and Al Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Ahmed Al Homoud Al Jaber.

HH the Crown Prince also received Khalid Al Issa Al Saleh, Nasser Abdul Wahab Al Qutami, Khalifa Talal Al Ajeti, Planning Undersecretary Abdul Hadi Al Awadi, board chairman of the United Company for Agriculture Products Mohammad Youssef Al Roumi.

He also received a number of Kuwaiti citizens at the public dawn.

Khorafi meets workshop owners

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi yesterday met with workshop owners at Sulabiya area and conveyed to them HH the Amir's keenness toward upgrading vocational crafts in the country.

Kuna learnt that during the meeting, plot owners raised a number of proposals regarding monthly rentals and requested government support for their business capabilities.

Also during the meeting, attended by 40 per cent of the plot owners, the conference agreed to form a committee to convey all proposals and views raised by craftsmen on developing their sector.

Among the attendees were Finance undersecretary Abdel Mohsen Al Hanif and board chairman of Warba Insurance Company Abdullah Al Jarallah and Gulf Insurance Company Sulaiman Al Dallal.

Islamic centre project

BONN, May 18, (Kuna): An Islamic centre project in the West German capital might enter its practical stages in the coming few weeks.

Kuwait's ambassador in Bonn Khaled Al Babsin met with head of the cultural department at the West German Foreign Ministry Barthold Witte to resume talks on executing this project, to which all Islamic states will contribute.

The talks also grouped ambassadors of Pakistan, which hosted the previous session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), and of Senegal, which will chair the coming OIC session, in addition to director of the Arab League office in Bonn Abdel Hakim Matrouk.

Babsin told Kuna that he expressed keenness toward obtaining the Bonn government's support in this project, affirming that the centre will not only be a place of worship or an Islamic symbol, but also a source of cultural enlightenment.

Hamadi leaves

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): Iraqi Deputy Premier Saoudoun Hamadi left here yesterday evening on a 24-hour visit to Kuwait.

Hamadi told Kuna that he met with HH the Amir and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber on bilateral relations and latest Arab developments.

He was seen off at the airport by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Ossaimi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shabeh, Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Assem Yagoub and protocol department's adviser Abdul Kareem Bu Ghaidh.

Waste recycling plant

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): Under the direction of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, an organic wastes factory will be constructed near Jahra city, a Kuwaiti daily said yesterday.

The daily reported that the factory will utilise the collection of organic wastes in the production of fertilisers to be used in the afforestation plans of the government.

The factory will start production after 22 months to take advantage of 1,400 tonnes of these wastes that are disposed daily, and will cost around KD10 million.

Sharhan returns

KUWAIT, May 18, (Kuna): Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan accompanied by undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub returned home from Algiers after taking part in the third session of the General Assembly of the Arab Authority for Space Communications (Arabsat).

Sharhan said in a statement to Kuna that the Arabsat General assembly had resolved to entrust the Great Soor Company with launching the third Arab satellite, in conformity with a recommendation submitted by an eight-member Arab committee.

Waste burial costs municipality KD 3 per ton

BY Jamal Ameen

CIVILISED communities show increasing concern about the disposal of household wastes, due to the close relation of this issue with the environment and public health.

Some communities have even gone so far as to utilise these wastes after them to address the twin issues of economics and environment. Kuwait Municipality has been attentively following up the technologies employed in utilising municipal wastes and studies have been conducted to determine the potentials of this project in the country — particularly solid wastes.

Recent studies have shown that the currently used methods to

dispose of solid municipal wastes and related economic feasibility is closely related to the populations mix and the urban growth in the country.

Studies have indicated that the average of daily wastes in the late 70's Kuwait per capita is 1.31 kg and that the eighties showed a slight rise in the individual's size of discarded wastes up to 1.5 kg daily.

The current size solid wastes picked up by municipality staff around Kuwait is estimated at 2,700 tons daily, and this figure is steadily increasing with the growth in population and urban development. The studies also revealed that the total amount of wastes buried by the

municipality each year 200,000 tons with an overall cost of KD2,700,000 which translates to KD 3 per ton.

The studies also indicate that each 400 kilograms of wastes require 1 cubic metre of burial and with the steady increase in the size of wastes discarded, the area needed for burial of these wastes in the coming years is projected at 35 square kilometre, which equals the existing total area of the Kuwait Airport.

Meanwhile, studies continue to find solutions and ways to effectively dispose of these wastes, given the small area of the country and urban growth rates.

Cypriot president arrives here today

Economic talks

NICOSIA, May 18. (AP): Cyprus President Georges Vassiliou will spend Saturday and Sunday in Kuwait and travel to Qatar on Monday for talks on the Cyprus problem and economic relations, the official news agency announced yesterday.

Vassiliou will be accompanied by Foreign Minister George Iacovou, Finance Minister George Syrimis and Pavlos Savvides, Minister of Communications and Works, Cyprus News Agency said.

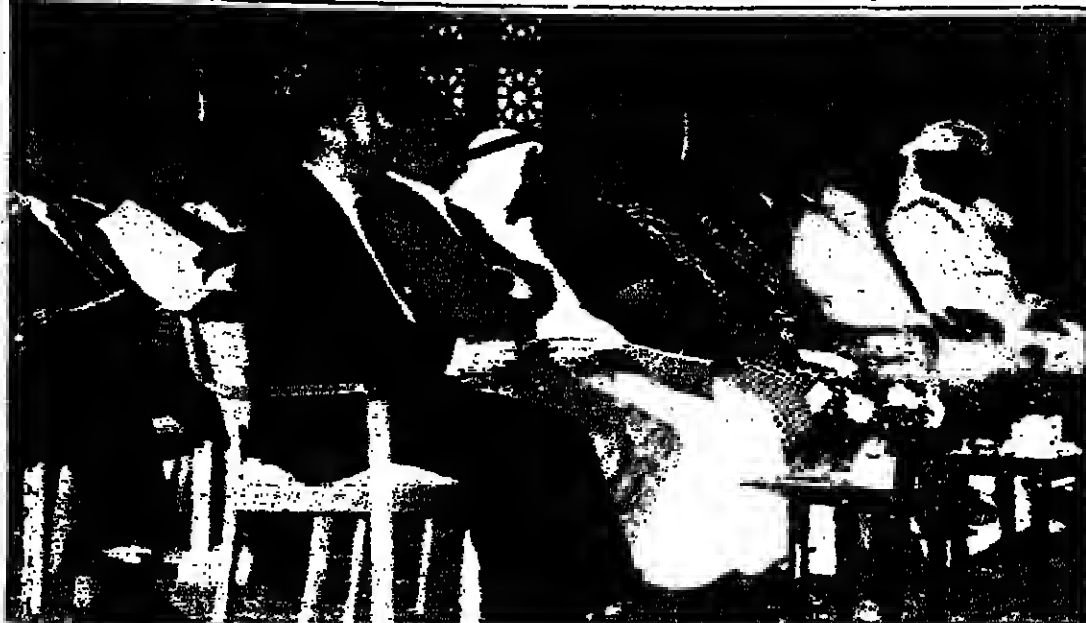
Kuwait has provided economic assistance to Cyprus in the past for such major

projects as the island's highway system. He is also to meet with Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani and other officials in Qatar.

Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish sectors since a 1974 invasion by

the Turkish army in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Greek Cypriot officials have expressed concern lately that Arab support has weakened slightly for their point of view on uniting the island in a federal system.



Members of the audience listen attentively to the guests of honour.



Abdul Aziz Hussein addresses students on education for a rapidly changing world.



KES chairman Mohammed Jassim Al Saddah addressing the audience.



School principal R.E. Muhmood addressing the school.



Senior headmistress Janet Carew giving the annual report.



Attentive students listening to the addresses.

KES holds Speech Day for seniors

High passing rates

THE Kuwait English School recently held its senior department Speech Day and prize-giving ceremony in the Shrook Ballroom of the Regency Palace Hotel. A distinguished company of dignitaries, parents, staff and students gathered beneath glittering chandeliers and video arc-lamps.

The guest speaker was Abdul Aziz Hussein, advisor to His Highness the Amir, who took as his theme "Education in a Changing World." Citing recent events in Eastern Europe as instances of dramatic changes, seen by some as a reaction to world crises, he said upon specialists in education the burden of addressing and finding solutions to today's grave problems. Their answers had to relate to the young in their care, if the latter were to fulfill their dreams and accept the high values expected of them. Through education a creative way of implementing change would be found, in which youth

shared fully, through education each individual had to be prepared to face the modern world of technology.

Hussain praised the school's "distinguished participation" in the educational process which was strengthening Kuwait. He supported the philosophy of a school which sought the education of the whole person. The school's enviable reputation had been enhanced by its efforts as a centre of enlightenment and culture through conferences and seminars in the quest of excellence. He concluded by congratulating students and staff and wishing all continuing success.

Earlier in the evening, the school chairman, Mohammed Jassim Al Saddah, reviewed the past and on-going programmes of the department, whilst Janet Carew — headteacher — spoke in some detail of the year's highlights — academic, cultural and sporting. Pass rates for GCSE

had been 98 per cent for GCE 'O' level 96 per cent and for FCE 'A' level 81 per cent. One former pupil was currently reading mathematics at Cambridge. Thanks to the school chairman, educational facilities had been enhanced. The house system fostered healthy competition, pastoral care and social development. To formalise contact with former pupils — a source of pride and pleasure — there had been set up, through the initiative of Douglas Williams, a body named Keps — Kuwait English Ex-Pupils Association. Mrs Carew urged this year's leavers to become members. She characterised KES students as the best any headteacher could wish for — a tribute to parents, staff and students themselves.

In her address, the school principal mused how rapidly the prize-giving ceremony passed and how dearly awards were earned though long, dedicated study. She expressed thanks to

the school chairman, to his daughter, Madame Wissal — since September a member of the management team, and to the staff. International schools — KES one among many — she saw as agencies for developing greater harmony among people, uniting minds and spirits in tomorrow's world. Her hope was that the generation now in school would keep alive the dream of making the world a better place; would themselves pass on to others the enrichment they had received through education.

Reflecting upon his eight years at KES, head boy Maybar Azarakh, spoke appreciatively of his debt to the school, where he found his abilities, both physical and mental, were stretched further than he had expected. He had learnt how to socialise with, and to understand, people of different cultures. To his parents, he paid moving tribute for their guidance. "For my part," he added, "I think they made the

right decision in sending me to Kuwait English School." He concluded by saying, "... However long my life may be — and I hope, insb'Allah, it will be a long one — the eight years spent at KES will always be a significant part of it, a source of special memories."

With head girl, Roudiane Hills, Mahyar recited "Geography Lesson," a poem by Zulfikar Ghose, voicing thoughts upon human life seen from changing perspectives.

Proceedings had begun on a solemn note with readings from the Holy Quran, given by Ibrahim Abu El Fadl and Mohammed Mukhtar Ali, and included fine performances by the Arabic choir, trained by Madame Feryal, the school choir — both of which were accompanied by Oliver Lister, and the school band which was under the batons of Paul Leggett and Keith Price. A lavish supper brought to a close a delightful evening.

Nursing Week recommendations

KUWAIT, May 18. (Kuna): Participants at the Sixth Nursing Week that concluded here last night recommended adopting practical steps toward establishment of an Arab nursing union.

The participants, who opened their week last Saturday under patronage of HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, further recommended exchange of information and visits among Arab countries to get acquainted on progress in the nursing profession.

Senior nursing officials should be invited in planning any health programme, they said.

On environment protection, which was chosen as the week's slogan, the participants, including representatives of a number of Arab countries, advocated boosting role of the individual in backing government efforts.

Study on effect of maids under way

Language problems

DR ADNAN Al Shatti of the psychology department of Kuwait University has said that ministries of Education, Planning and Social Affairs and Labour undertook three studies in 1983 and 1985 on the effects of maids on the language of children they take care of. But he added that none of these studies was scientific or gave correct results.

These studies showed that there are no negative effects on the language of children. He added that information of the three studies were taken from parents of children who usually denied that their maids affected the language of their children.

Dr Shatti who was speaking at a lecture organised by the Faculty of Arts said he has been making a study on the same subject since 1987. He added that his study proved that previous studies were untrue and not undertaken on a scientific base because of false information provided by families that were involved in these studies. He added that he is making his study on about 100 children at kindergartens. Half of them are being taken care of by their mothers and the other half are being taken care of by maids. These children are about 4 years old which is the critical stage of gaining and learning language. After this age the

effect on children language becomes clear.

"We asked children themselves some questions showing who take care of them. We also sent questionnaires to their parents to make sure of this information."

"Dr Shatti said although the study is still being made, the results of tests made on these children indicated some difference in language of children taken care of by maids and children looked after by their mothers specially in the number of gained and spoken words."

"We presented 6 pictures to children and asked them to com-

ment on them. The children looked after by maids used an average of 160 words to comment on these pictures while children taken care of by their mothers used an average of 210 words to comment on same pictures. Dr Shatti said."

He added that other tests included the number of repeated words and the use of non-Arabic words in speaking. Dr Shatti pointed out that it is beneficial for children when their maids teach them English but this should be limited for a few hours daily and only under control of their parents. He added that results of his study are expected to appear at the end of this year.

Privatisation policies should be evaluated: economist

Contribution to GNP retreats

TRANSFERRING the present functions of several public sector undertakings to the sole responsibility of the private sector should be carefully evaluated on a broad-based basis, a Kuwaiti academic economist said.

Dr Modbi Al Humoud, a professor at the faculty of commerce and economy of Kuwait University in a research paper undertaken on Kuwait's experiment on privatisation of the public sector expressed doubts on the capability of this sector to shoulder these responsibilities independently.

The official recommended developing an appropriate formula which will ensure that the private sector is professionally in tune with the ramifications involved in efficiently managing utilities of the public sector.

Research

In her research submitted at a seminar held recently in Cairo on this issue in the Arab countries, she explained in Cairo on this issue in the Arab countries, she explained that the de-nationalisation process in Arab countries had been implemented through three avenues: the first dealt with the privatisation of the public sector either partially or totally, the second involved reducing the monopolist role of the public sector by introducing the simultaneous involvement of the private sector and the third focused on allowing the private sector to manage some of the activities presently being looked after exclusively by the public sector.

She commented that the public sector in Kuwait intends to opt to practice the second and third avenues as its dependence on the private sector had witnessed significant increase in recent years. However, she said that the private sector which remains as a main pillar of the Kuwaiti economy had seen its influence erode

in the wake of the economic boom that was evidenced by the country during the oil era. Since then, the role of the private sector had closely been connected with governmental expenditures and accordingly had been transferred from an initiating sector to one receiving patronage.

Humoud disclosed that most private sector units mainly comprise individual enterprises and limited liability firms which constitute about 90 per cent of the private sector. Thus, taking the large level of commitment, she said that we should carefully weigh the various issues of the de-nationalisation process of the public sector.

Workforce

Speaking of the workforce in the private sector, Humoud said that this sector mainly employs expatriate workforce, particularly during the past few years due to the rationalisation of expenditure adopted by the state.

The strength of the expatriate workforce is estimated to be about 94.7 per cent of the manpower in the private sector with about 53 per cent foreigners, while Arabs are 41 per cent, according to statistics undertaken in 1985, compared to 89.9 per cent in 1980.

Speaking of the contributions of the private sector to the Gross National Product (GNP), Humoud said that they had significantly retreated during recent years — from 34.5 per cent in 1982 to about 23.7 per cent in 1985.

Meanwhile, the official said that Kuwait extends the necessary subsidy to different industrial, agricultural and commercial activities undertaken by the private sector. These subsidies are represented in various forms, including concessional industrial loans and providing lands at symbolic prices, including

exemption from customs duties on equipments imported for industrial purposes in addition to subsidies on gas and electricity.

Subsidies

Specifically, she said that governmental subsidy to the agricultural sector amounted to about KD12.477 million during the period 1983-1987, with 49 per cent being allocated to the support of vegetables agricultural projects, the balance being devoted to the building of greenhouses and wells. Further, she added that governmental productive projects receive a lot of subsidy in view of their high capital costs and the private sector right from the early stages had refrained from being involved in such projects.

In relation to privatisation of these projects, she commented that government subsidy will not be discontinued and in this context the issue of privatisation should be carefully considered. Commenting on a statement that the privatisation process is being developed to enhance the productivity of the public sector, the official said that relevant statistics had confirmed that the private sector in Kuwait is not bereft of its particular form of administrative problems.

She disclosed that about 77.5 per cent of the private sector corporations do not abide by either annual or semi-annual commissioning schemes and that 44 per cent of these corporations give no incentives to their workers. The balance had no specific criteria to evaluate work performance.

Concluding, Humoud said that the privatisation process does not constitute the sole solution to the problems of the public sector, but solutions rest in adopting an ambitious programme for reforming public enterprises and other governmental units.

Candidates feast voters

(Continued from Page 1)

government will fill the other 25 seats by appointment.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told Kuwait's supreme planning council this week that "despite the storms which sometimes make waves, we shall intensify our work and we shall labour night and day... to ensure that the vessel of Kuwait reaches the shore safely."

Among bedouin tribes living on the fringes of urban area, a sort of primary poll has already begun. Tribes do not want to split their voting power in the actual poll, so losers of the preliminary polls will withdraw.

The Interior Ministry today allocated 125 premises for electoral committees distributed among 25 constituencies.

The committees were distributed in a way whereby every constituency would get one main electoral committee and several sub-committees.

The Education Ministry's school buildings will house these committees. Of the constituencies, Ahmadi the 21st is the largest where it comprised one original electoral committee and eight sub-committees compared to an average of three to seven main and branch committees in other constituencies.

Rail help

VIENNA, May 18. (Kuna): Director-general of Tunisia's National Railways Company Al Nouri Shawish has highly appreciated Kuwait's contribution to rehabilitate the country's railroads network.

In an interview with Kuna, the Tunisian official said the World Bank in collaboration with the Kuwait-based Arab Development Fund will finance the stretching of a 70-km long railroad to link two cities in South Tunisia.

Shawish, currently here for an international conference on the promotion of rail transport in North African countries, told Kuna that the KD2.8 million project comes in the framework of an overall project aimed at linking the Arab Maghreb states with a railways network.

He said that the kingdom of Saudi Arabia is also contributing to the project. He did not specify the kingdom's share.

Environment issues under consideration

Power seminar

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times staff

EXPERTS participating in the second seminar on Power System Planning in the GCC states continued discussing papers on Thursday. Henry C. Mangam, a senior environment specialist of Electricity Supply Board — Ireland, spoke about giving due consideration to the environment in the planning of the generation of electricity.

Environmental considerations are becoming ever more important in the development of electricity industry due to the emergence of many problems of a global nature, Mangam said and added that the development of responses are taking place at an ever increasing pace.

He commented that it would be useful for electricity utilities to carry out in-depth multi-disciplinary studies of the implications of these problems and determine solutions.

He said that such studies are of use for the utilities own strategy and also to assist the appropriate national authorities in the development of national responses that are well-founded on both environmental and socio-economic criteria.

A. Habib from Bahrain spoke about the load management scheme in Bahrain, past experience and future prospects. He said that the poor annual load factor is a common problem in many large power systems. This is mainly attributed to minute to minute variation in load demand with rapid increase during certain periods of the day.

He added that the experience with the pilot load management programme proved the feasibility of introducing such techniques. Future schemes should achieve at least 10 per cent of system load giving a cyclic reduction load of 2.5 per cent. The cyclic off period could be evaluated by understanding the nature and extent of temperature changes in the premises of consumers.

He concluded that load management schemes constitute an important change in consumers daily habits and should be introduced on a voluntary basis. To make them attractive for consumers tariff incentives should be provided, he said.

Yemenis in UAE celebrate merger

ABU DHABI, May 18. (Reuters): Thousands of Yemenis living in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) danced today to celebrate the imminent merger of North and South Yemen.

People from both states embraced and shouted "Long live Yemen" as loudspeakers blared the national anthem of the new country. Some sported traditional weapons.

"The celebrations will continue until unification is proclaimed later this month," North Yemeni Ambassador Mohammed Heter Al Khawfi told Reuters during the festivities near his embassy in Abu Dhabi.

Some South Yemenis said the end of socialist rule in their country made them even happier than the merger. "The most important thing is that people no longer live in fear. Shortages of consumer goods are ending," one said.

South Yemen, announcing liberalisation plans after years of authoritarian rule, and its conservative northern neighbour decided last November to unite.

Two new hippopotami at Omariya zoo

THE director of Omariya Zoo at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Musa Al Khashti has said that the zoo has bought a couple of hippopotami recently. This kind of animal that lives in Africa is being brought to Kuwait and Gulf states for the first time. He added that a number of different animals were also brought to the zoo to be shown to visitors. He added that these new animals are the local wolf, European wolves, black gazelle, porcupine, bears, gray squirrel, American lions and wild cats.

Khashti pointed out that there are 56 kinds of mammals forming a total of 228 animals, 91 kinds of birds forming a total of 492 birds and nine kinds of reptiles forming 39 reptile animals in the Omariya zoo.

The zoo is a place that allows visitors to see all world creatures in a limited place.

Research

The zoo has become an entertainment place for children. He added that administration of the zoo is co-operating with faculty of medicine and Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science in researching diabetes on some kinds of pigs at the zoo.

Visiting hours at the zoo are between 2 pm and half an hour before sunset except on Fridays, Thursday and official holidays which are from 9 am to half an hour before sunset, he said.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

DEMOCRACY is the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time — Sir Winston Churchill — English statesman.

Arrival daily

Migrants swarm East Germany

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): Hundreds of poor Romanians squat in an East Berlin train station and more arrive daily, posing East Germany with a refugee problem it never knew before Eastern Europe's borders were opened.

Anxious to avert racial incidents, officials have taken many of the Romanians from the station to lodgings in school gymnasiums and a nearby army base. But the influx is rising, space is running out and authorities have yet to find a solution.

Romanians can enter East Germany without visas. Expulsion after the 30-day limit on stays is not option in East Germany's new liberal democracy, officials say, and Romania will not revert to the curbs on foreign travel that existed under dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Problems

"We had no inkling of such problems before Eastern Europe opened borders and chose democracy. But now we must bow to the needs of humanity," said Col Herbert Philipp, commander of the army base command with 1,100 Romanians.

East Germany has about 87,000 foreign contract workers, most of them Vietnamese, employed in industry. But it has never experienced a spontaneous influx of foreigners until now.

Some 3,000 migrants — 80 per cent of them gypsies with a sprinkling of ethnic Turks and Bulgarians — have trooped off trains arriving at East Berlin's Lichtenberg station from southern Europe since the beginning of April.

Hundreds are coming daily and no end is in sight. Most come to improve their standard of living in Eastern Europe's strongest economy, some apparently lured by East Germany's impending unification with rich West Germany.

Dragging battered luggage containing their worldly possessions, the dishevelled migrants settle down on station benches where they are fed by Red Cross workers. Some doze on Red Cross blankets in corners. Grimy, saucer-eyed children beg local travellers for handouts while mothers openly breast-feed babies. Some adults leave the station to sell trinkets at local flea markets.

Every evening, Romanian interpreters employed by East Berlin's municipal government help officials persuade most migrants to move to temporary quarters.

The army base has filled up and officials are now hurriedly requisitioning school gymnasiums.

Saviour

But what next? Communist rule left East Germany with a total lack of charity groups and social workers experienced in caring for needy foreigners. Officials are pleading for West German money and expertise to plug the gap.

Whether this comes before or after German union is unclear. But Bonn is regarded as the saviour. Its wealth and social services have helped integrate millions of foreigners.

East German officials lend urgency to their appeals by citing xenophobia kindled by the influx.

There have been repeated reports of violence between locals and Romanian migrants recently.

"We need so much help. We lived isolated for so many years where we could neither travel nor welcome large numbers of visitors, so we're totally unprepared for the world coming to our doorstep now," said Aneta Kahane, in charge of foreigner affairs for the East Berlin city government.

Some of the Romanians say they have come as "tourists" while others want medical care for ailments ranging from tuberculosis and syphilis to worms and lice.

Many Romanians want to reach West Germany but lack the necessary visas. However, that barrier could well fall with unification.

Asked why they left home, most cite economic misery or — especially in the gypsies' case — ethnic persecution.

At the National People's Army (NVA) barracks on the southeastern outskirts of the city, the migrants have been put up free of charge in dormitories vacated by soldiers discharged under post-communist cutbacks.

On a recent visit in late afternoon, Romanians were sleeping or talking in their rooms or idling in hallways. An old woman with stumps for legs rested in a corner.

No job notices or anything else tailored to give the Romanians a sense of purpose in East Germany were to be seen.

"There's hardly any point. These people have no education, no skills, no foreign language," said Stefan Petrescu, an ethnic Romanian teacher who has dealt with the migrants.

"They're just on a crazy adventure — they have all these new freedoms but they don't know how to use them."

With unemployment rocketing as East Germany shifts to a market economy in a prelude to union with West Germany, the Romanians have been landing in a social tinder box.

Authorities fear the xenophobia vented at foreign workers as well as travelling Polish black marketers in recent months will now spread to the largely helpless Romanians.

But officials who must handle the migrants are struggling with a vacuum of legal authority amid unity negotiations with Bonn that will phase East Germany out of existence.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1536 — Anne Boleyn, second wife of England's King Henry VIII, is beheaded.
- 1554 — France's King Henry II invades the Netherlands.
- 1585 — English shipping in Spanish ports is confiscated, which serves as declaration of war on England.
- 1635 — France declares war on Spain.
- 1649 — England is declared a Commonwealth.
- 1792 — Russia invades Poland.
- 1802 — Napoleon Bonaparte's Order of Legion of Honour is created in France.
- 1897 — Armistice is signed in Greece-Turkey war.
- 1900 — Britain annexes Tonga Islands in South Pacific.
- 1930 — White women are enfranchised in South Africa.
- 1943 — Britain's prime minister Winston Churchill tells US Congress that America has Britain's full support in war against Japan.
- 1945 — More than 40 US Superfortress bombers attack Tokyo, Japan, in World War II.
- 1971 — Canada's prime minister Pierre Trudeau and Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin sign agreement in Moscow to establish regular high-level contacts between the two nations.
- 1973 — Soviet Union and West Germany sign 10-year agreement calling for economic, industrial and technical co-operation.
- 1981 — Five British soldiers are killed in ambush by Irish Republican Army men in Newry, Northern Ireland.
- 1983 — UN Security Council unanimously endorses foundation Central American peace initiative as it expresses deep concern about danger of war between Nicaragua and Honduras.
- 1984 — Finance ministers of the ten leading non-communist industrialized nations and Switzerland call for improvements in the international currency exchange system and urge more multilateral "surveillance" of national economic policies.
- 1985 — Lawrence of Arabia is honoured in Moreton, England, on the 50th anniversary of his death.
- 1989 — Deposed Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos is listed in critical condition in Hawaii after kidney, cardiac and pulmonary failure.

Not all are for one-party state

Mugabe gets few opponents

HARARE, (Reuters): Robert Mugabe's dream of turning Zimbabwe's multi-party democracy into a one-party state is getting the cold shoulder from some members of his own Zanu-PF Party.

Few ministers are stepping forward as open opponents of a transition to a one-party state, which became a key theme in elections in March.

But no-one from Mugabe's cabinet, which normally enthusiastically second his leader's proposals, has come out as a supporter either.

The president has said a multi-party system is wrong for Africa because it accentuates ethnic rivalries. Mugabe's isolation as he pursues the plan is becoming increasingly marked, diplomats say.

Discontentment

"There is a plenty of discontent over the one-party issue within Zanu," one Western diplomat said. "Mugabe has a genuine conviction that unity is the way forward, but that conviction sits uneasily with the aims of some people in government."

For one outspoken critic of the one-party state, Dr Jonathan Moyo of the University of Zimbabwe, the question now is whether Mugabe can override mute opposition from the party and the electorate and force his dream of the country.

"The question is whether the president is powerful enough to carry the idea through, if he is we'll see a one-party state," Moyo told Reuters.

Zanu-PF won 116 of 119 contested seats in the election, but — in a climate of repressed hostility to the one-party state — half the electorate failed to vote, partly due to apathy and to fears of post-election reprisals against the opposition.

Mugabe hailed the result as a mandate for one-party rule, a comment not reported by the strongly pro-Zimbabwean press. But he was cautious about when it would be introduced and whether a referendum was needed to confirm support for it.

He also stressed that his dream had been approved by Zanu's party congress and had been part of its election manifesto.

It is not referred to in the manifesto, and Mugabe has since blown hot and cold about the idea.

He did not mention it at Zimbabwe's 10th independence anniversary in April, or during his

parliamentary opening speech outlining plans for the current session two weeks ago.

"There's an argument in some circles that he's now looking for a decent exit, a way to let it die quietly. I think it's a sinister argument," Moyo said. "If the issue is raised, it's an issue. And Mugabe has continued to raise it."

At less ceremonial venues, Mugabe is still saying the one-party state is on its way.

Democracy

He spoke in favour of the idea while in Switzerland last week. At a May 1 rally he told Zimbabweans that other African one-party states were being forced by Western aid donors into experimenting with democracy.

Elsewhere in Africa, one-party states are beginning to move towards the kind of multi-party democracy already set up in Namibia, Mozambique, Kenya, Angola, and Zaire are all exploring the possibility of broadening their government systems.

"The result is the marginalisation of Zimbabwe by neighbouring countries," Moyo said. "People are saying 'what's going on? Why are you going where others are coming from?' Going against the current will become unbearable."

The absence of a charismatic opponent of one-party rule in party ranks has hamstrung the timid critics from Zanu.

Veteran leader Joshua Nkomo, who led the PF-Zanu Party of southern Zimbabwe's Ndebele people until it was absorbed into Zanu last year, has kept quiet.

Diplomats said Vice-President Nkomo, a grizzled elder statesman who with Mugabe steered Zimbabwe into independence in 1980, saw too much at risk to dare speak out.

The merger between Zanu and Zanu ended years of bloody conflict between Ndebeles and the Shona people who form the backbone of Mugabe's support. Diplomats said Nkomo did not want to do anything to restart the unrest.

"You might have thought he (Nkomo) would have entered the debate by now, but I can see why he

might not," said Nicholas Ndebele, director of Harare's Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice (CCJP).

Condemned

"If anyone fought for their country it was him, but he's been accused of dividing the country ... of destroying everything he himself had fought for," said Ndebele, whose human rights group condemned the one-party state during the election.

"I think we can interpret the silence of some senior members of government in terms of fear they might lose their jobs," he said. "Feelings against the one-party state are very, very strong, but the president is also very, very powerful."

"I think many Zanu members believe it will come by whether or not they like it, and then if they've spoken out publicly they will be in a difficult position," Ndebele added.

Discreet hints of rebellion are in the air. Labour Secretary John Nkomo told consistently members at the weekend that opposition parties should not be harassed as it was their constitutional right to oppose the government.

Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero, whose aim of attracting foreign investors to Zimbabwe is being compromised by Mugabe's support for a one-party state, said last week in the United States:

"In my part of the world there are many countries which are one-party states, and changes are beginning to take place even there. I think this should be encouraged and we ought to learn a great deal from what has happened in Eastern Europe."

Diplomats say several Zanu members at a post-election Central Committee meeting blamed the unpopular one-party state idea for voter apathy, but the president ignored them.

Moyo said the veiled criticisms by Zanu members should be taken with a pinch of salt.

"To stay there they should instigate (to voters) they don't like it but must implement it," he said, adding:

"Everyone who's criticising the one-party state is saying we need a referendum, and no African leader has ever not won a referendum."

Real reforms under way in Albania

TIRANA, (Reuters): A package of human rights and economic reforms in communist Albania appears to be a genuine change of direction after decades of rigidity and isolation, according to Albanian and Western diplomatic sources.

The reforms were announced last week in time for an unprecedented visit to Tirana by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that itself symbolised a new opening to the world by Europe's last orthodox communist state.

Among the most significant changes was a decision to allow every Albanian to travel abroad, a right denied to all but a politically reliable elite during four decades of restriction and control.

"It is the end of a taboo," author Ismail Kadare, Albania's leading literary figure, said of the new travel law.

"The question of passports is not just an administrative one," he said. "It is a very new change of attitude and more social changes will stem from it."

Religious

The reforms, which also include lifting a ban on religious propaganda in this atheist state, were set firmly in the context of the Albanian Communist Party's continued commitment to one-party rule.

Diplomats said they had been prompted at least in part by fear that popular uprisings against Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe last year would spark similar unrest in Albania.

But they also showed that President Ramiz Alia, who is also party leader, was convinced of the need to reform the ultra-orthodox system imposed by the country's Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha during his 40-year rule.

"Alia is someone who has understood that he has got to change his regime," one Western diplomat said.

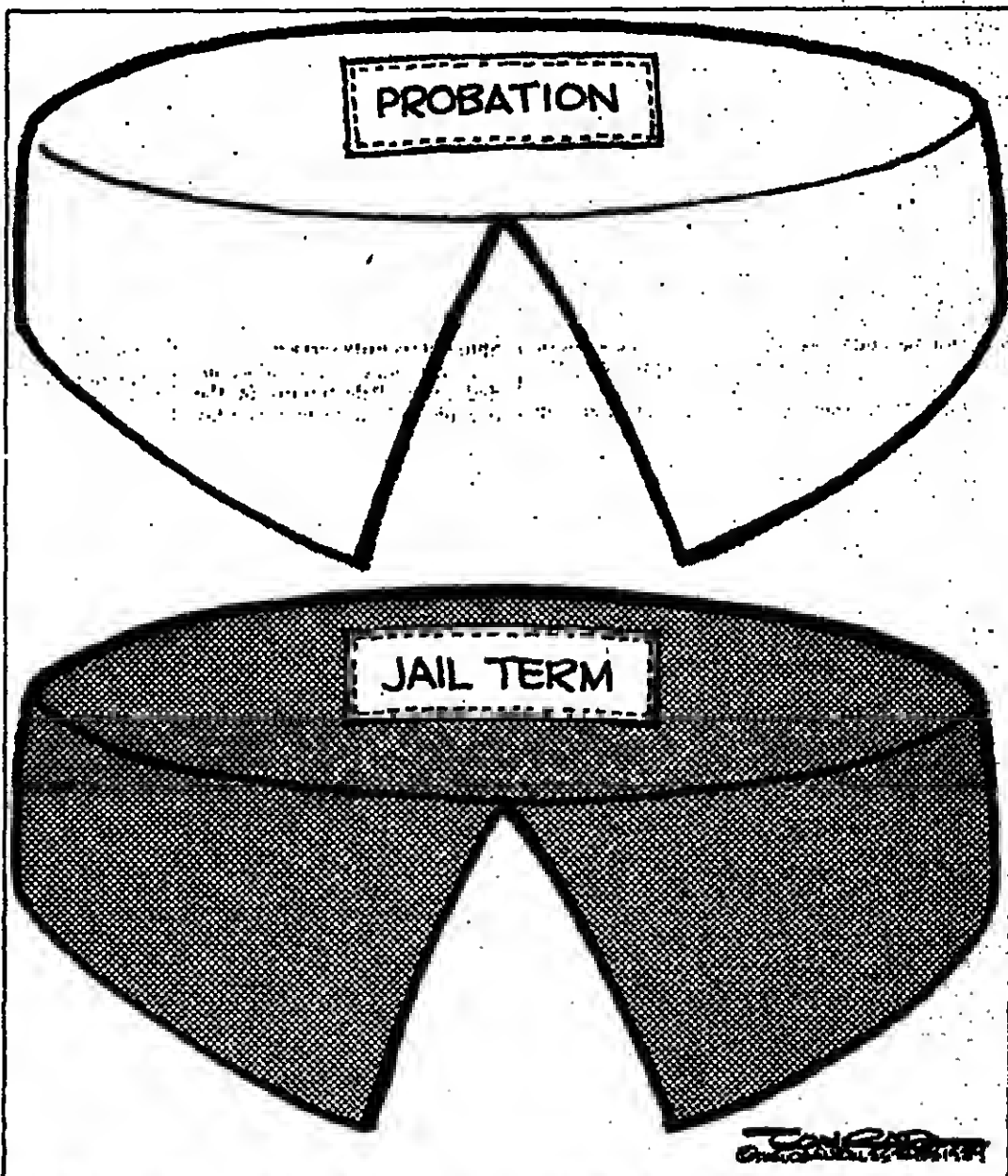
"Coming after 40 years of absolute rule by Hoxha, that wasn't easy," he added. "But Alia is someone quite capable of managing this evolution."

Alia has said change will be gradual, but told Western reporters during a rare meeting last week that it was also unstoppable.

Alia, 64, succeeded Hoxha on his death in 1985, taking over the reins of a tiny Balkan country, the poorest in Europe, whose economy, human rights provisions and international ties had been stifled by a policy of strict self-reliance.

Hoxha, Albania's wartime partisan leader, regarded the country as under constant threat of invasion, a fear bred by a long history of foreign domination and fuelled since World War II by ideological rifts with both the Soviet Union and China.

One of the starkest illustrations of this fear are the tens of thousands of concrete pill-boxes that dot and blot virtually every field in Albania.



Economist Gramoz Pashko, who helped draft plans to allow more local industrial initiative, said the fear had also led to excessive centralisation of the economy.

"Now we realise that we have to face up to

problems," he said.

Alia has slowly tried to draw Albania out of its shell, a process that has gathered pace since the easing of tensions in Europe with the collapse of the communist bloc.

Letters to the editor

Energy problematics

SIR: While debating Pakistan's options in the field of energy, one must realise the fact that the centre of discussion is a living, existing state with its particular and unique experience, characteristics and strategic requirements. So an abstract and mere academic debate will be, to say the least, an exercise devoid of any practical purpose.

It is hard to find a country where energy and its sources are not directly linked with strategic conditions. During the last fifty years, the world has witnessed about forty separatist movements but only Pakistan and a small island nation of Cyprus, share the sad distinction of losing a part of their land due to foreign military intervention. So it is this unfortunate national tragedy which shapes Pakistan's strategic thinking including its options in the field of energy.

Soviet experience shows it clearly that without economic power, military power tends to be meaningless. Therefore, in present strategic situation, if Pakistan has to escape Soviet fate, it has to work overtime to develop its military as well as economic strength. Consequently, in a short time frame Pakistan has no option but to grab anything to fill gaps in its energy supply. Needs are so hard-pressing that the government of Pakistan should invite private sector to invest in energy projects. Pakistani expatriates with more organized savings, could extend a helping hand.

Pakistani leadership without any exception has been conscious of the fact that they need more than conventional forces to create a strategic balance with their big brother. But they were overtaken by history and it was after the tragedy of 1970 that Pakistan's most well-read

politician, Z. A. Bhutto, started forcefully preaching his concept of total war. This came in the nuclear option and Pakistan joined an undeclared nuclear arms race in the sub-continent. In this race, Pakistan cannot afford to be left behind and to maintain the parity it has to scramble for the latest technology, and the best-trained manpower. So in the field of energy Pakistan could abandon all options but not the nuclear one in near future.

Questions

It is not a question of simple energy. It is the ultimate option in Pakistan's national struggle for honourable survival. If detached from strategic questions, energy options are determined by the geographical conditions of a country. Pakistan, due to its geographic conditions, is a hydroelectric society and hydro-electric projects should be natural options. Even today, more than 53 per cent of electricity is generated by hydel projects.

Due to their dependence on one great source of water, hydroelectric societies are united by nature. But some short-sighted Pakistani politicians are trying to defeat the nature and are using river waters to generate animosity between the people of Pakistan. So the natural option is not the practical option. Pakistan has not been able to realise its coal utilisation policies and its practical energy options have become very limited. There is no doubt that less decisive attitude could turn most of Pakistan into uninhabitable land without a nuclear explosion. Village technology of biogas, appropriate technologies for solar energies and wind-mills are being developed in Pakistan, but a country running on load shedding cannot wait for their final development.

Of course national decision making should not be confined to a short span of time. While thinking of

future, we know that present man-made technology is disaster prone. The potential of a great technology, including the energy technology, to cause disaster is somewhat directly proportional to its output capacity. An oil burning stove can burn a house and a Chernobyl disaster can depopulate several cities. To save the earth and species living on it, man has, at last, to opt for technologies which are in harmony with nature.

To stage the great escape, Pakistan needs futuristic research institutions. Subcontinent had to lose its independence for missing industrial revolution. Now Pakistan has to make it sure that its gap in traditional technology, with the developed world, does not create a trap for its national sovereignty. At the same time it has to initiate a new industrial revolution, which will be in complete harmony with nature.

Pakistan is blessed with world-class scientists! Those who want to see Pakistan a future force, should organize their capabilities for this purpose.

"Pakistan needs something more than abstract 'inter-collegiate' debates on its options. Expatriates have always provided leadership to subcontinent. Let Pakistani professionals and traders pool their talents and money to build futuristic institutions in their homeland. Stand up and be counted."

Khalid Malik,

Karachi.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Trick backfired on political system

IT was a sorry day in Texas when Ann Richards won the Democratic nomination over Jim Mattox, in what has been described as one of the dirtiest campaigns in the history of the state. It was sad because the dirty tricks used in the fight backfired on the political system as we know it.

When all the results were in, Political Muckdiggers of America (the organization of dirty pool managers) called an emergency meeting to find out where they had gone wrong.

"This is the lowest day in the history of political campaigning," One-Eyed Robemutter declared. "It may mean that fighting in the gutter doesn't work, and we could all be out of work for the 1992 elections."

Shorty Benzene said, "Let's not panic. Just because our vicious, below-the-belt personal attacks on Ann Richards didn't catch on doesn't mean we should discard them as a fair campaign tactic. Don't forget she's a woman, and occasionally dirty tricks can backfire when you're trying to defeat one of them for public office. Going on national television and accusing your opponent of using dirty pool is a good publicity move and should not be eliminated just because of one primary in Texas."

Alonso Mobley stood up. "As you know, I was one of the first people in this organization to sling mud. It was working well up until the Richards' contest. My analysis is that we threw too much mud on her, but that we didn't throw enough. The next time we should also have been accused of doing."

"For example, people are pretty nervous about hepatitis these days," Jumpy Mutton's people to make a commercial showing her at a blood bank with a voice-over saying, "How many people will Ann Richards infect? But they felt that it was too dirty, and they preferred to stick with the dope campaign."

"With all due respect," said Michael Minimal, "I believe that we're best-bested too much over this. The public expects us to take the low road. The trick is to be nasty and untruthful at the same time."

Roger Dodger asked, "Does that mean we can continue to show a man on death row endorsing our opponent for giving him weekend leave? How do we show the opposing candidate pushing an old lady in a wheelchair down the stairs. Ann Richards' victory was an accident. The clean-election people are miffed it as an example of what can happen to candidates who resort to dirty tricks. We have to prove to the politicians that we can still win elections with a mad-dog-attack approach. Our living depends on bad taste and scandal."

Rapido Doyle said, "Everything was going so well. I thought that after 1988 the appetite for dirty campaigns would be insatiable. I'm not sure I want to stay in politics if I have to maintain an ethical standard."

One-Eyed Robemutter tried to sound upbeat. "Forget Ann Richards and go for the big one in '92. Willie Horton is still alive and well for another presidential campaign. We've hired mud-slingers — the best in the business — and the politicians are going to need us as soon as their ratings in the polls drop. Our message to them is, one Ann Richards' victory does not mean that they can continue to use innumerable, unpardonable and unforgivable TV commercials to win their elections."

Shorty Benzene suggested, "How about us having a film festival to show all the dirty commercials we made in the last four years? This would give the candidates in '92 an opportunity to see how hitting below the belt can benefit them."

One-Eyed Robemutter said, "Good idea. Shortly, if we're going to sling mud, we may as well relax and enjoy it."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Marx, Lenin proved wrong by history

VIENNA, (CSM): The revolutions of 1948, Karl Marx optimistically opined, would remove Europe's nationalist antagonisms.

After Russia's 1917 revolution, Vladimir Lenin developed the theory. He believed 'capitalism' would collapse to be replaced by a more humane system.

The years between then and World War II proved Lenin wrong as Europe before him. Central Europe and its perennial Balkan powder keg still loaded with ancient ethnic quarrels and conflicts over redrawn frontiers dating from the last century.

Today, with the demise of capitalism but of the system Russia imposed on Eastern Europe 45 years ago, the "ghosts" of those old nationalisms are reminding communist successors of one of their hardest tasks ahead.

Tensions

The renewed tensions between Hungary and Romania over the position of 1.5 million Hungarians in Romania's Transylvania region show just how hard. The latest was Hungarian withdrawal from Romania's Transylvania region to its ethnic Hungarian minority in territory — the 1975 Helsinki Accords from Europe's existing borders — but the rights of that large Hungarian minority.

Nicolae Ceausescu's ruthless assimilation policies against it brought open conflict between Budapest and Bucharest even before both communist regimes fell in Hungary by reform and in Romania by the December revolution.

Immediately, Romania's ruling National Salvation Front promised speedy restoration of the Hungarian rights. But four months later, in the face of rightist pressures and opposition to the loss of Romania's dominant position, it still had done nothing.

The result was violent rioting in Targu Mures last month, capital of a formerly Hungarian autonomous region.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, Poland has problems with postwar German expellees. Czechs have not forgotten that Poland grabbed a bit of their country when the Munich agreement left it to Adolf Hitler's mercy prior to World War II.

Discord

Discord between Czechs and Slovaks runs deeper than the recent furor over whether to put a hyphen in the country's name.

In the Balkans, the "Macedonian question" is again setting Serbs and Bulgarians and Serbs and Greeks at odds. This dispute, transverse enough, but milder beside the escalating confrontation between Serbs and Albanians in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province.

The Yugoslav party was not directly involved in the general Communist collapse, but it has felt a strong backlash from the province to democracy, above all over Kosovo. The province has many Albanians as Transylvanians have Hungarians. Since the Tito era ended (in 1981), it has constantly hovered on the brink of — and often slipped over into — civil war.

Partible go beyond numbers. Transylvanians' Hungarians look for their lost rights, not remain with Hungary. Similarly few Kosovars look toward Albania, however, much a Greater Serbia-minded Serbian leadership in Belgrade argues to the contrary. What Albanians riot for is the return of the autonomy of the 1970s and future status as a republic.

Problems

Czechs, Poles, Slovaks, and Hungarians all seem conscious to resolve their problems. But with leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the odd man out, Soviet leadership in Belgrade argues to the contrary. What Albanians riot for is the return of the autonomy of the 1970s and future status as a republic.

PLO realigning military ranks to upgrade combat potential

KUWAIT, May 18, (AP): The Palestine Liberation Organisation is consolidating its military forces from throughout the Middle East in Iraq and Libya under a new strategy to upgrade its combat potential, according to PLO officials and Gulf newspaper reports yesterday.

The Kuwait daily quoted what it described as authoritative Palestinian sources in Tunis as saying the PLO leadership recently held a meeting in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and adopted "a new Palestinian military strategy ... that provides for gathering all Palestinian forces to enable them to restore their combat abilities."

It said that under the new plan all Palestinian forces have been shifted to two Arab countries, Iraq and Libya, from Algeria, Sudan, and the two Yemeni states, which hosted the Palestinian commandos after the exodus from Lebanon in 1982 invasion.

The transfer process was in line with the tasks to be assigned to these forces in the coming stage, the paper said.

PLO military strength has usually been scattered in Arab countries — particularly since some 8,000 PLO fighters were forced out of Beirut after the 1982 Israeli invasion of the Lebanese capital and another estimated 3,000 a year later from the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli under Syrian pressure.

Senior PLO figures say they have returned, with the organisation's strength in Lebanon estimated at more than 11,000 fighters.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring United Arab Emirates, the state-run newspaper Al Itihad quoted its own sources as saying that military conscription would be enforced among Palestinian youth and that they would be trained through the armies of the Arab countries hosting them.

A high-ranking PLO official, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition he not be named, confirmed the military realignment.

Truce holds in east Beirut

BEIRUT, May 18, (Reuters): A fragile truce was holding in Lebanon's Christian enclave for the third day today but there were no signs of a political compromise to bring lasting peace.

Security sources said army units loyal to General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen kept their guns silent in east Beirut and along a maze of frontlines to the north and north-east.

Despite occasional sniper fire in some areas, thousands of civilians ventured out to clear rubble and patch the shattered windows of their homes.

But crossing points linking LF-held areas to Aoun-controlled territory remained closed for the 10th consecutive day. The general's men gave no explanation for shutting the passages.

The church-mediated ceasefire went into effect late on Wednesday, halting more than a week of fierce artillery duels.

Political sources said it had no chance of lasting unless consolidated by a political compromise between Aoun and LF chief Samir Geagea. They said there was no serious attempt by mediators to bridge the gap between the two.

Dozens of ceasefires have collapsed since the inter-Christian battle for control of east Beirut began on January 31.

Aoun triggered the fighting when he ordered the LF to disarm and disband. More than 1,075 people have been killed and 3,150 wounded and over a billion dollars' worth of damage has been done in the enclave.

Some 200,000 of the area's 900,000 inhabitants have fled to other parts of the country or abroad.

In another development Arab mediators charged with ending Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war will meet shortly in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to prepare for an Arab summit in Baghdad, diplomatic sources said.

They said the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia would discuss ways to solicit Arab aid for the government of Lebanon President Elias Hrawi, whose authority is challenged by Aoun.

The goal would be to win the widest possible commitments of Arab financial and military support for Hrawi's government to enable it to rebuild the country's devastated infrastructure and expand its authority to all Lebanese territory.

Arab states have agreed to hold a summit in Baghdad on May 28.

Aoun rejects a peace plan for Lebanon drawn up by the three Arab states, mandated by the last Arab summit in Casablanca one year ago to solve the Lebanese crisis.

He wants a new peace plan that would ensure a total withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Israel's proxy force in south Lebanon has arrested three Lebanese in connection with the killing of American Christian missionary William Robinson, security sources say.

They said the three were held at a prison run by the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army militia in the town of Khiam, within Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" of south Lebanon.

A Finnish soldier serving with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force was wounded today by Israeli machine gunfire in south Lebanon, a UN officer said.

The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the soldier was slightly wounded in his right leg when Israeli troops in the so-called "security zone" opened up on the village of Taibeh.

The Finnish soldier was wounded outside his position in the village, the officer said. He refused to identify the wounded soldier, pending notification of his family.

FAO meet to combat killer fly

ROME, May 18, (Kuna): Representatives of more than 40 donor countries in the Food and Agriculture Organisation held an extraordinary meeting here today to discuss ways of combating a killer fly threatening the animal wealth and human life in the near east, southern parts of the Mediterranean and Africa.

FAO's director Eduardo Somoza described the situation as very dangerous, urging for provision of required funds, before it is too late.

The representatives are discussing an \$85 million programme to fight the killer fly, scientifically known as *Cochliomya vicina*.

Teenager shot dead in W. Bank

Nablus under curfew

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, May 18, (UPI): Paramilitary border police shot and killed a 13-year-old Palestinian during a West Bank stone-throwing incident today, one day after a Swedish human rights group issued a report condemning the army's use of violence against Arab children.

The teenager was killed when border police dispersed youths from the Balata refugee camp who threw stones at an oil truck on the outskirts of the camp, military sources said.

One policeman fired a rubber bullet, killing Isam Al Mugharbi, military and Palestinian sources said. The camp, which is in Nablus, the largest West Bank city, was later put under curfew.

Military authorities clamped curfews on the neighbouring Balata and Askar Palestinian refugee camps, the sources said.

In Hebron, scores of troops searched for two gunmen who ambushed an army patrol last night, wounding a soldier.

Kids in held lands Call to protect

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, May 18, (AP): A human rights report published yesterday said 159 Arab children were killed and as many as 63,000 were wounded by bullets, beatings and tear gas during the first two years of the Palestinian uprising.

"Many soldiers consider Palestinian children's lives to be of little worth," alleges the report, which focuses only on army activity. It says violence against children is "severe, indiscriminate, multidimensional and recurrent."

The findings were rejected by the army and criticised by an Israeli human rights activist as being one-sided.

Le Col. Moshe Fogel, an army spokesman, countered that pro-PLO activists used the children as shields during protests and were responsible for their injury.

"We are faced with an uprising which turns its children into martyrs and actually encourages minors to participate in violent activities against Israeli soldiers whether actively or passively," he said.

Fogel added that researchers never approached the army for reaction about Palestinian versions of events.

Thomas Hammarberg, head of the Swedish group and a former secretary-general of Amnesty International, said Israeli leaders had failed to investigate abuses adequately and had given soldiers the impression they had freedom to do as they liked.

"It could be the soldiers believe plastic and rubber-coated bullets are non-lethal," he said in an interview. "But I think it begins to take the form of the intentional if they let it continue when they know the consequences."

He said the importance of the study was in documenting the scope of the child casualties "which is far higher than has been reported by the media."

The report said 106 of the 159 children died from gunshot wounds in the first two years and 13 have been shot to death so far this year. The uprising in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank is in its 30th month.

By comparison, the Israeli information centre for human rights in the occupied territories said 148 children died through May 1.

Spokeswoman Zahava Galon said tear gas deaths were excluded as too difficult to substantiate and no reliable injury estimates are available.

The army disputed the report's claim that "the vast majority" of soldiers were not punished for wrongdoing. Fogel said soldiers were court-martialed or disciplined for improper use of force in 25 per cent of the 79 army-counted cases in which children under 14 were fatally wounded in the past 29 months.

He cited one case in which a soldier was sentenced to two months in jail and six months probation after shooting a 13-year-old girl in Gaza's beach camp last July 26.

A military court gave two Israeli soldiers suspended jail terms for kicking a Palestinian child and stubbing out a lit cigarette on him, an army spokesman said yesterday.

The court gave Corporal Doron Algaiz and Sergeant-Major Yaacov Ben-Zur three-month suspended sentences for improper behaviour towards a 13-year-old child in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus after a clash with stone-throwers last August.



Mubarak, Thatcher discuss

Bahrain and Egypt on Thursday discussed the spread of weapons in the Middle East and the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel-occupied Arab lands.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had a 45-minute meeting and continued their talks over dinner.

A spokeswoman for Thatcher said they discussed Mubarak's recent trips to China and the Soviet Union, the general Middle East situation and the "spread of weapons and missile technology" in the region.

There was no specific mention of Iraq, Britain has in the last two months seized 40 electronic components bound for Iraq which it said could be used as triggers for nuclear weapons.

Then steel pipes, which the British government charged were parts for a huge Iraqi cannon were impounded in Britain last month.

But apart from listing the items on the agenda of Mubarak's talks with Thatcher, officials refused to say how far they examined Iraq's developing military power in the region. (Reuters wirephoto)

The town centre, nearby villages of Sair and Beni Naim and Debeishe refugee camp remained under curfew imposed overnight, the army said.

Firearm attacks on Israelis have been rare throughout the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule but lack of moves toward peace talks has prompted calls by radicals for armed revolt.

Palestinians said the ambush may have been sparked by a procession through Hebron on Monday for Rabbi Moshe Levinger, an extreme right-winger who lives in Kiryat Arba.

Supporters carried him shoulder-high through the heart of the Arab market in a hero's farewell as he left to begin a five-month jail term for shooting dead an Arab in the town.

In Jerusalem today an Israeli motorist escaped injury in a rare petrol bomb attack in the city, near the state American colony hotel, a regular haunt of journalists and diplomats.

Jerusalem police yesterday announced the formation of a new anti-terror squad to consist of about 30 hand-picked policemen and members of the Shin Bet security service.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded seven Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday when they dispersed hundreds of Arabs mourning the death of two fellow-villagers, hospital said.

Witnesses said soldiers shot five people in the village of Beit Hanoun after residents marched to the grave of a 24-year-old man killed by troops last Thursday.

They said the march was staged after the army lifted a week-long curfew on the village and was intended as a peaceful event. Palestinians usually visit the graveyard the day after someone dies.

Israeli official met with PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 18, (Reuters): Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan, under investigation for meeting PLO chief Yasser Arafat, said yesterday a right-wing minister also met members of the outlawed Palestinian organisation.

Nathan was released on bail of \$5,000 yesterday after admitting he met Arafat in Tunis on a recent trip. He said he had seen records in Tunis of a London meeting between Justice Minister Dan Meridor and PLO Liberation Organisation officials.

"I saw the file in Tunis. He met with two people in London," Nathan told Israeli television. The two were members of the PLO, outlawed in Israel as a terrorist organisation, he said.

Dan Meridor, a protégé of hawkish Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, told Reuters the accusations were false.

Shamir given more time to form govt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 18, (Reuters): Israeli President Chaim Herzog gave Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir 21 more days to form a government yesterday amid continuing wrangles with minor parties who hold the balance of power.

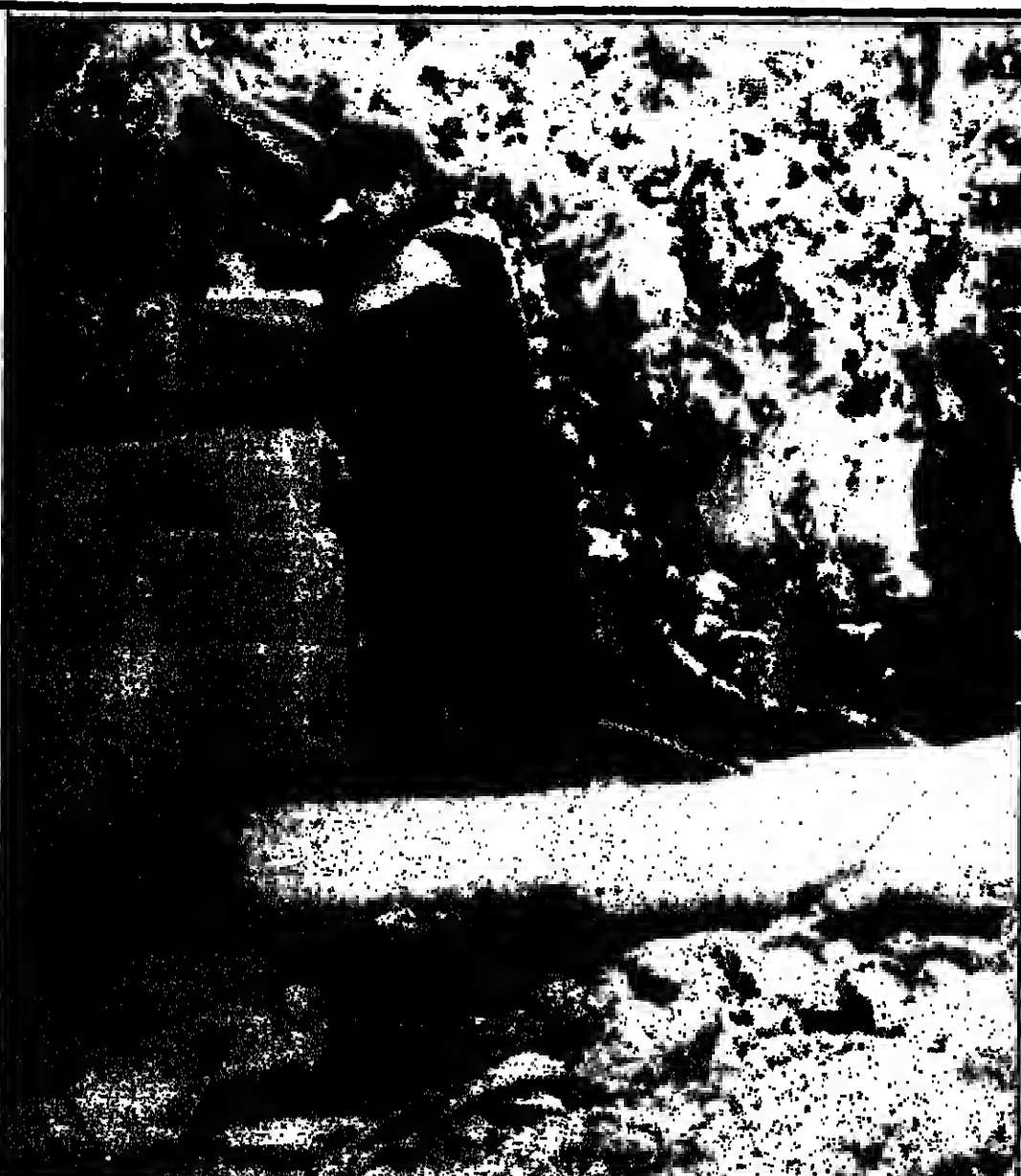
Shamir's right-wing Likud Party is trying to sew up a coalition with far-right and religious parties but disputes remain over policy guidelines and ministerial posts.

"I will not need the whole period, I will finish it sooner," the 74-year-old premier told reporters after meeting the president.

US counterpart but is also of great interest to the Technion, Silver said.

US press reports said Washington withheld licences to sell supercomputers to the Technion and to Israeli military industries out of concern over alleged Israeli co-operation with South Africa in developing a medium-range missile.

Western diplomats told Reuters that Israel was angered by reports that United States was allowing the same supercomputer to be exported to Saudi Arabia.



Attempt to replace

Members of the Al Ibdah family attempt to replace broken grapevines, May 16 that were uprooted when Israeli police demolished a garage that was built without permit. Rubble from the demolished garage is at bottom of the picture. The garage was in the Beit Hanina neighbourhood of occupied east Jerusalem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Free our men: Iran

DUBLIN, Ireland, May 18, (AP): A top Iranian official has demanded the release of Muslims held in Israel and Lebanon, and indicated that no more Western hostages will be freed until there is a reciprocal gesture.

"Iran has intensified its efforts to secure the release of hostages in the past months," Hussein Moussavian, Iran's director of Western European affairs, said after meeting officials of the European Economic Community.

"We believe that goodwill should be shown against goodwill."

At a news conference after the three-hour meeting at Dublin

Castle, Moussavian also accused Western countries of racism for caring only about Western captives.

And he was adamant that Iran will not retract its death sentence against India-born British author Salman Rushdie.

Ireland, which holds the rotating presidency of the 12-nation community, made no statement after the meeting.

But the talks appeared to have made no progress toward securing the freedom of the remaining Western hostages — despite modest hopes raised by the fact that Iran sought the meeting and has helped free in the past month two of six Americans held by pro-

Iranian Muslim captors.

At the news conference, Moussavian repeatedly maintained that freeing the Western hostages depended on "goodwill."

But Moussavian indicated that Iran will not press for the release of the remaining Westerners unless the West now pushed for the freedom of "hundreds of Muslims" held by Israeli and Lebanese Christian groups.

Asked why Iran has not apparently followed up its efforts that helped free Americanas Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, Moussavian said the Lebanese groups holding Westerners now expect to see Muslim captives freed.

Bid to avoid car bombs

SLA becoming more efficient

KFAR HOUNEH, Lebanon, May 18, (Reuters): The schoolmaster fleeing the violence of Beirut failed to understand the band signals from the distant Lebanese guards and followed the first car towards the hill-top checkpoint.

"Halt," bellowed the guard. He then swiftly raised his US-made M16 rifle and fired two rounds over the roof of the second car to ensure it waited its turn at the fortified gateway to the south.

Welcome to Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon.

Rule one: All vehicles are only permitted to approach checkpoints one at a time — to avoid hit-and-run attacks.

Rule two: Civilian vehicles must carry at least two people when moving — to deter lone suicide bombers.

Rule three: On seeing an Israeli army patrol approaching, a driver must pull to the side and wait until it passes — to stop car bombs being rammed into convoys.

"I'm not sure about rule three," said an officer in the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, charged with protecting the zone and Israel's northern border against guerrilla attacks.

"If I wanted to blow myself up in a car filled with explosives as an IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) patrol passed, I would feel happier stationary than fumbling with the trigger and timing and trying to drive."

"Still it seems to work," he said.

And increasingly so does the Israeli-declared security zone — a swathe of territory between two km and 14 km (one to nine miles) wide north of Israel's border stretching 85 km (52 miles) from the Mediterranean to the west to Mount Hermon in the east.

SLA, Israeli and United Nations commandos said the first four months of this year were some of the quietest in the zone since Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in 1985 after its 1982 invasion.

In addition to the low level of guerrilla attacks and other incidents, they agreed that the SLA had become a more professional force at an estimated cost to Israel of \$3 million a month.

The militia is supported by several hundred Israeli troops in the south which are

reinforced when needed. The 5,900 UN peacekeepers in the region hold that the SLA is illegal and refuse officially to recognise it.

"If you compare the first four months of last year with the same period this year the number of commando operations are 25 per cent of what they were," said SLA commander General Antoine Lahd, largely recovered from an attempted assassination 18 months ago.

"Also most operations now consist of shooting in the direction of our positions from far away. In the past they tried to occupy the zone," said Lahd, who added that the SLA was at full strength with 3,000 militiamen.

The general said the reduction in attacks as proof of the improved strength of the SLA through better training and equipment which led to high commando losses, deterring groups from launching attacks.

But UN officers said that although the SLA had become more effective, this did not fully explain the large decline in commando operations.

"The last four months were very quiet but maybe it depends more on the situation in Beirut," said Colonel Odd Helge Olsen, commander of the Norwegian battalion of the United Nations Interim Forces in South Lebanon (Unifil).

The UN officers said a power struggle in the Shi'ite Muslim community between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and pro-Iranian Hezbollah had largely switched the groups' attention away from raids on the security zone.

"Since the Amal-Hezbollah war began in 1988, the trend has been for operations in the south to be 50 per cent down," said a UN source. "We used to count two attacks a day but in the last few months we had one or less a day and low casualties."

"The SLA and IDF still have some problems but now for instance the SLA can directly call in Israeli helicopters or artillery support," the source said. "No other militia in Lebanon can match their resources."

The source said incidents of SLA militiamen firing at Unifil positions had fallen. "The IDF is even testing them, seeing if it can stay on the border and let the SLA hold the zone," he said.

Najlab calls on UN

Sulaiman Najlab member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) told Reuters in Tunis May 17, that the United Nations should set up a body to guarantee the ban on the settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Palestinian territories. (Reuters wirephoto)

PLO to demand global action

TUNIS, May 18, (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has said it would press at the Arab summit in Baghdad for international steps to stop Soviet Jews settling in Israeli-occupied territories.

Sulaiman Najlab, PLO Executive Committee member, told Reuters: "We think the United Nations... should set up a body to guarantee a ban on settlements (for Soviet Jews) in occupied Palestinian territories."

Najlab said: "The PLO is deploying every effort to unravel this problem and I think that Syria will be present."

"There is no reason for Syria to be absent from the summit whose aims conform with Syrian efforts to close Arab ranks and avoid any hegemony in the region," he added.

Six Jewish families yesterday quietly moved into temporary homes in the occupied Gaza Strip settlement of Dabiq, Israeli television reported. After their protests by Israeli soldiers and US expression of concern over the settlement, the first group of settlers preferred to slip into their prefabricated homes quietly, the television said.

"It is not difficult," an unidentified settler said on Israeli television. "Here everyone you see is invading. This is the state of Israel, that is the first thing. What can we do, this is life."

Settlement of more Jews in Israeli-occupied territories could be a major stumbling block to peace negotiations of Middle East problems, the head of a UN agency said yesterday. Palestinian refugees said today.

Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner general of UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the near east — told a news conference: "We must believe in the freedom of people to go where they want."

"But feelings run very high among the Palestinians when they see land settled which they think belongs to them. I hear this from the Palestinians and from the Arab governments."

Israeli and Finnish authorities are completing a plan to transport thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel through a small airport on the Finnish-Soviet border, officials said yesterday.

The operation would make Finland the fourth major route for Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union, along with Hungary, Romania and Poland, the sources said.

Arab countries have agreed to delay a Security Council vote on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories until after an Arab summit meeting in Baghdad late this month, UN diplomats said yesterday.

The diplomats, from Arab countries and the West, said that after more than a week of intense negotiations, there was general agreement that a formal meeting would be postponed to await the results of the summit. Fruitless negotiations on an acceptable resolution have been under way for more than two and a half months.

The damaging cost to Israel's economy of absorbing the wave of Soviet Jewish migrants was highlighted by a leading newspaper in London today.

Nidal squads on 'mad' campaign

TUNIS, May 18, (Reuters): A former top aide has accused Palestinian radical leader Abu Nidal of murdering two defectors and critically wounding a third in a "mad" campaign by death squads against former comrades.

Atef Abu Bakr, who broke with Abu Nidal in October to form the Fatah Revolutionary Council, Emergency Leadership, vowed to retaliate for the attacks, which he said took place in Lebanon, Algeria and Syria in recent weeks.

Israel considering buying supercomputer from West German firm

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 18, (Reuters): Despairing of securing a licence to import a US supercomputer, Israel is considering buying one from a West German firm, an official of the leading Israeli technology institute said today.

Professor Brian Silver, vice-president for development at Haifa's Technion Israel Institute of Technology, said representatives of Bonn-based Siemens AG visited Israel recently to present a supercomputer.

"We ordered a supercomputer from the American company Cray but we doubt it will

be delivered because the United States has refused to give an export licence for it," Silver told Reuters.

The US government bars the export of powerful computers to countries it thinks could use them to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

"That left us with no option. But over the past year a German company which has government backing produced a supercomputer," Silver added.

Supernum's "parallel" supercomputer is based on completely different principles to its

US counterpart but is also of great interest to the Technion, Silver said.

US press reports said Washington withheld licences to sell supercomputers to the Technion and to Israeli military industries out of concern over alleged Israeli co-operation with South Africa in developing a medium-range missile.

Western diplomats told Reuters that Israel was angered by reports that United States was allowing the same supercomputer to be exported to Saudi Arabia.

FLN's biggest show of force

Reply to fundamentalists

ALGIERS, May 18. (AP) An estimated 100,000 people marched yesterday through central Algiers, singing patriotic songs and chanting for the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

Proclaimed as a "national demonstration of fraternity and solidarity," the march was intended as a reply to the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front and the pro-democracy movement, which organised similar, separate demonstrations during the past month.

By contrast with last week's pro-democracy demonstration, which drew about 100,000 people in pouring rain, the ruling party's march was favoured by sunshine. The fundamentalists' march on April 20 drew an estimated 200,000 people.

Many of the marchers yesterday were farm workers and nearly all were men. Most appeared old enough to have experienced Algeria's eight-year war of liberation against France which ended 28 years ago.

It was the ruling party's first major demonstration in Algiers since bloody riots erupted in October 1988 against unemployment, low living standards and the dictatorship of a self-appointed clique.

Traffic was at a standstill throughout the city centre as marchers walked slowly for three



Two Algerian women, one wearing the traditional veil, shout slogans in support of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) during a march through the Algerian capital on Thursday. More than 200,000 Algerians took part in the march which marks a stunning comeback of the FLN one month ahead of the first free elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

kilometres (two miles) from the 1st of May Square to the Square of the Martyrs, kept in line by officials with arm bands and megaphones. No violence was reported.

The demonstration took place three weeks before local elections scheduled June 12, the first multi-party elections since independence.

The march was carefully organised by the National Liberation Front, which mobilised trains and buses from across the country to bring demonstrators to Algiers. By contrast, the Islamic march in April was

held without assistance from state-owned transportation.

The official Algerian news agency estimated the number of marchers at more than 100,000. Police along the route guessed more conservatively there were "tens of thousands."

The demonstrators carried thousands of Algerian flags and political banners, many of them directed against those who have amassed huge fortunes during the past 25 years. These fortunes caused much of the anti-government resentment which led to the 1988 riots.

Euro-African bridge: Work on building a bridge or tunnel to link Europe and Africa across the Straits of Gibraltar should begin in the next decade, a leading promoter of the project said on Wednesday.

"The next decade will certainly see the start of work on the job," Moroccan Equipment Minister Mohamed Kabbaj told a conference of 300 international experts. (Reuters)

Extradition request: East Germany asked Syria on Thursday to extradite Alois Brunne, a wanted Nazi war criminal responsible for deporting thousands of Jews to death camps.

Reporting from Damascus, the official ADN news agency said East German Ambassador Karl-Heinz Lugenheim had handed the extradition request to Justice Minister Khaled Al Ansari. (Reuters)

Penalties for tamperers: Iran on Wednesday approved jail terms, fines and lashes for distorting the words of the late Ayatollah Khomeini. Tehran radio said penalties of up to 74 lashes, three years in jail and 500,000-rial (\$7,000) fines were passed by Parliament in amendments to the preservation of the works and memory of Imam Khomeini law. (Reuters)

Begin improving: Former prime minister Meachem Begin showed a "marked improvement" Thursday after being diagnosed as suffering from pneumonia, hospital officials said.

Dr Motti Lishitz, deputy director of Shaarei Tzedek hospital in occupied Jerusalem, expressed hope Begin would be released home soon. (AP)

Israel has over-pumped water: Israel's water engineers union has recommended declaring an emergency because of serious depletion of the country's major water sources. Haaretz newspaper reported on Wednesday.

It quoted the engineers as saying Israel had over-pumped its underground water resources over the past 30 years and the aquifers were now in danger of pollution. (Reuters)

Swat Dead Sea flies: Israel and Jordan, which have no diplomatic relations and are nominally at war, are co-operating to wipe out a plague of flies at the Dead Sea, Israel radio said on Thursday.

For the past six weeks a joint committee of Israeli and Jordanian health officials has been working to exterminate the pests affecting tour-

MIDEAST BRIEFS



Reaching out

Vagiz Khidiatulin reaches out and touches the Western Wall on Thursday as he and members of the USSR national soccer team visit occupied Jerusalem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Municipal polls Islamists win

ZARQA, Jordan, May 18. (Reuters) The Muslim Brotherhood and its fundamentalist allies swept to victory in municipal elections in Zarqa, Jordan's second city, according to results released yesterday. In a remarkable showing, the Islamic Action Bloc, one of five groups contesting the Zarqa election, had all its nine members elected.

ist areas, it said. (Reuters)

Soldiers to fill in as waiters: Cyprus is considering a new use for soldiers conscripted into the national guard — as waiters and barmen in holiday resorts.

Labour Minister Iakovos Aristidou suggested using young soldiers doing national service to fill vacancies and stop illegal hiring of foreigners by the tourist industry. (Reuters)

Dalan founds new party: Bedrettin Dalan, a former mayor of Istanbul and once a trusted lieutenant of President Turgut Ozal, on Thursday founded a new political party, hoping to win the support of voters estranged from the governing Motherland Party.

Dalan acquired political fame with ambitious projects to restore Istanbul's former beauty during the five-year term from 1984 to 1989. Dalan resigned from the Motherland Party he helped to found shortly after losing his post in a surprise upset in local elections a year ago. (AP)

Boycotts new Parliament: Opposition members boycotted the first meeting on Friday of the newly elected Parliament in breakaway North Cyprus, saying the polls were undemocratic.

The Democratic Struggle Party (DSP) won 44 per cent of the vote in a general election on May 6 but only 16 of the 50 seats in the Turkish-Cypriot Parliament because of a weighted electoral system introduced this year. (Reuters)

3 Kurdish rebels killed: Turkish security forces have killed three Kurdish rebels in a clash near the eastern town of Dogubeyazit, Anatolian News Agency said on Friday.

A policeman was wounded in the battle in Thursday night with rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers' Party, whose violent campaign for independence has claimed nearly 2,200 lives in east and southeast Turkey since mid-1984. (Reuters)

103-year-old woman dies: An aging woman from Baqaa camp, in the Jordanian governorate of Balqa, has died last night at the age of 130 years.

Jordanian daily "Sawt Al Shaab," which interviewed the woman, said Thursday, that Haniya Hussein Al Awadien recalled the occupied Palestinian city of Jafa in 1948 when the city was consisting of several shanty dwellings and simple houses. (Jana)

Demjanjuk identification wrong: The defence attorney appealing the war crimes conviction and death sentence of retired Cleveland autoworker John Demjanjuk said Thursday that one witness who identified him as a Nazi death camp guard as "senile" and others were mistaken.

Demjanjuk's Israeli lawyer, Yoram Shefel, strenuously attacked the identification from photo lineup by witness Joseph Charney. (AP)

Kabul shows off spies, warns Pakistan 'stop interfering' or else

KABUL, May 17. (Agencies) The Soviet-backed Afghan government yesterday showed off three spies it claimed were trained by Pakistan and told its eastern neighbour to stop creating trouble or face grave consequences. Pakistan has "intensified its interference in the most flagrant form including launching plans to topple state power in the republic of Afghanistan," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news conference in Kabul, where the three Pakistani youths were put on display.

The spokesman accused Islamabad of sending Pakistani mercenaries to undermine the Kabul government, which has been fighting a civil war for nearly 12 years.

The government said fighting has recently eased but rebel rockets continue to hit the capital and one on Wednesday landed close to the Czechoslovakian embassy.

Seated in a huge conference room with walls lined with landscape paintings, the three, all about 18 years old, took turns to speak to the media

through an interpreter.

One of the captives suddenly broke into English to deny he was a member of the Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency.

The other two, one lounging back and occasionally smiling, said they had been trained by Pakistan before working with rebels, who are largely armed by the West.

"I'm not a member of the ISI ... the government of Pakistan had nothing to do with my coming to Afghanistan," blurted out Sayed Ghayoruddin in

English, rolling frightened eyes up to the ceiling.

Claiming to be a member of the Jihad Islami rebel group, he said he had been lured to Afghanistan by the rebels because they offered him money and he could not get a job in Karachi.

His fellow prisoners said they had been told the government of Afghanistan was communist and its people infidels.

"Now I have changed my mind," said a smiling Basharat Mahmood, who said he had been treated well by his

captors. Neither of the others commented on his treatment.

They will all be tried in a special court, but one official said they would not be executed.

Iran-based Afghan rebels would not accept an election plan pushed by their colleagues in Pakistan, a mujahideen leader said on Wednesday.

Lolijaji said the Pakistan-based mujahideen leaders did not represent the Afghan refugees in Iran and were

divided among themselves over the election plan.

An alliance of seven Sunni-Muslim mujahideen groups based in Pakistan plans to hold elections ahead of the formation of a grand council in war-torn Afghanistan.

In other developments Afghanistan yesterday proposed major changes to its constitution that one diplomat said was an admission the 12-year-old revolution had failed and the country would return to the days before the start of the civil war.

He moves a lot," said an Arab diplomatic source. Meanwhile, Sudanese rebel leaders held talks with US officials in the Kenyan capital yesterday, aimed at paving the way for a ceasefire in Sudan's bloody seven-year civil war, European diplomats said.

Press conference at the Meridien Hotel by Habchi & Chalhoub w.l.l. (distributors in Kuwait)

THE new fragrance 'Egoiste' by Chanel was launched at a press conference held at the Meridien Hotel recently. It is a fragrance for a man with a taste for action.

It reveals a certain style and choice in aromas. Intensity, mystery and vigour are defined in Egoiste as a spicy-woody-vanilla fragrance. Its new bottle speaks of the man with an out-of-the-ordinary personality.

Egoiste, presented in Kuwait by Habchi and Chalhoub, ranges from Eau de Toilette, Lotion apres-rasage, Mousse a Raser, Stick Deodorant, Deodorant and Savon. The new fragrance marks an important step in Chanel's conquest of the bastion of men.

A new facet of Chanel

The international launch of Egoiste marks an important step in Chanel's conquest of the world of men. With this new fragrance, Chanel can now meet the expectations of the varied personalities likely to be attracted by our name. Antaeus is a stimulating,



The press conference in progress at the Meridien.

masculine, sensual harmony for a younger man with a powerful personality.

Pour Monsieur is the expression of a classic charm, an elegant refined fragrance. Egoiste takes its place alongside these two charac-

ter profiles. It is the Eau de Toilette for a determined, fulfilled man, who has little to prove, but much to accomplish.

An expression of strength To contain this self-assured strength: a smooth block with clear-cut, solid and dynamic lines.

Everything is language, and this new bottle speaks of the man with an out-of-the-ordinary personality.

The spirit of Chanel, in its most masculine form, interpreted with assurance and determination, unyielding yet not forceful.

Light plays on the classic facets of the bottle and contrasts with the bold, subtly textured black stopper.

A sure, firm gesture: this bottle is decidedly made for a man's hand.

A new angle on seduction A fragrance full of character, which has both impact and maturity. Beyond the unexpected contrasting sensations, a profound, unique harmony.

The main theme is Sandalwood from Mysore, which dominates the architecture of the composition.

Each step in the unveiling of the fragrance reveals the facets of a personality sure of itself.

Vignur: fruity freshness. Mandarin and Rosewood

are the key notes.

Mystery: the spicy notes of Coriander are revealed, subtly softened by the essence of Damascene Rose.

Intensity: the force of Sandalwood from Mysore takes on all its strength, highlighted by Vanilla and Ambrette.

Egoiste is defined as a spicy - woody - vanilla fragrance.

But what good are words? Men will be faithful to it from the first: women will quickly recognise the secret intensity of emotion it arouses in the very depths of their hearts.

A man out of the ordinary How does one define his good points?

How does one speak about his shortcomings?

Only one thing matters, a man's attraction. Egoiste is the fragrance for a man who is attractive because he is himself. His charm lies in his natural elegance: nothing about him is affected.

After the passion of youth, he moves forward through life with a sense of purpose.

A man who asks for a lot and gets it: from others and from himself. Above all, who knows how to direct his life with energy and passion.

A man with a taste for action, revealing all the



Jacques Polge (left) with Jacques Helieu.

strength of his character. Tenacious and determined, he succeeds because he has the spirit of a conqueror.

An egoist? He knows what he likes and he develops his own lifestyle with confidence.

Jacques Helieu and Jacques Polge "The two senses: sight and smell"

Just as some piano pieces must be played as a duet, there are two players in perfume. One for the bottle and the other for the fragrance.

To enchant the senses - dazzle the eye, and captivate the sense of smell. The harmony of a flawless product - harmony which is only achieved when the skills of two players are perfectly matched. Chanel's master perfumer, Jacques Polge, has at his command a range of some two thousand base scents.

The artistic director, Jacques Helieu, has distinct impressions to communicate - impressions which lend themselves to an infinite number of subtle variations.

Chance has it that these two creative spirits share the same Christian name! An even closer bond between two great minds working together to create such inspired compositions as Antaeus, Coco, Chanel N° 5

Eau de Parfum. And today: Egoiste.

Jacques Polge is in charge of a real hive of creativity. He liaises with the flower processing plant in Grasse, without losing touch with scientific research into chromatography and mass spectrometry.

His laboratory, as secret as NASA, is a mystical combination of alchemy with the most up-to-date technology in the field of chemistry. A brave new world of fantasy which appeals to the most mysterious of the five senses — the sense of smell — and endows the man behind Chanel's perfume with the gifts of the visionary and the charm of the poet.

For Jacques Polge, Egoiste is neither a vice nor a virtue, it is simply the natural expressions of his art.

Only by spending time alone, reflecting and examining his own thoughts himself, can Jacques Polge create products to be appreciated by millions.

Jacques Helieu knows everything there is to know about the language of Chanel, a secret language handed down to him by his family which has worked with Chanel for generations. Anything yet to be discovered, he grasps intuitively.

For him, the spirit of crea-

tion must be visible in the most minute detail: the shape of the bottle, visual images, graphic design. He works to a tenth of a millimetre. Meticulous attention is given to every last detail. Change after change is made. This is the route to perfection. With

a critical eye, innate sense of elegance and prodigious memory, Jacques Helieu, as artistic director of Chanel perfumes, is both the guardian of a faith and a pioneer of the company's new aesthetic perspectives.

Egoism, Jacques Helieu sees this as a form of personal freedom: he would rather pursue his own inspiration than follow set rules.

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Chanel
1990

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Flacon verre 250 ml
Vaporisateur 50 ml
Vaporisateur 100 ml
Lotion apres-rasage
Flacon verre 75 ml
Flacon verre 125 ml
Vaporisateur 100 ml
Mousse a Raser
Aerosol 150 ml
Stick Deodorant
Le Stick 75 ml
Deodorant
Aerosol 150 ml
Savon
Modele Bain 150 g



BUSINESS & FINANCE

مكتبة النخيل

Dollar slightly higher

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): British shares closed lower today after profit-taking cut short a powerful rally. Gold ended at \$369.75 an ounce in the London bullion market after finishing yesterday at \$369.20.

On European currency markets, the dollar edged a shade higher in quiet business.

In London, shares ended near the day's lows after a nervous session and news of a weak start on Wall Street.

But most of the damage was done in early trading as investors took profits after the market had swiftly added 37 points to yesterday's 63.3-point surge.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 blue chips closed 15.2 points down at 2,269.1. Although down on the day, it was still a gain of 93.2, or 4.6 per cent, on the week.

"It's very difficult to say where the market's going next," said one London dealer. The index's all-time closing high of 2,463.7 was set on January 3.

Dealers said yesterday's rally had been inspired by a shortage of stock for sale and by signs that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government was softening its stand on a key issue of European Community monetary policy.

In the view of some of the markets, the shift could lead to sterling soon entering the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary system which in theory could lead to an easing of monetary policy and lower interest rates.

Shares in Paris closed slightly lower while the Frankfurt Bourse posted only a meagre gain.

In currencies, the dollar finished a touch higher after staying in a narrow range in quiet end-of-week business.

"Today was a typical Friday," said one Frankfurt dealer. "Nothing was going on and movements were limited."

Dealers said the market shrugged off news that East and West Germany had signed a treaty paving the way to economic union between the two countries, including the introduction of the West German mark into East Germany in July.

They said the treaty did nothing to ease lingering doubts about the cost of German unification and monetary union, adding that the market would stay under pressure for the time being.

UK jobless rate rises

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): The number of workers without jobs in Britain has risen for the first time in four years in a sign that the economy is slowing, the government said on Thursday.

Unemployment rose a provisional, seasonally-adjusted 1,200 in April to 1.61 million or 5.6 per cent of the workforce, the same percentage as the previous two months, Employment Secretary Michael Howard said. It was the first increase since the number of jobless peaked at 3.1 million in July 1986, seven years after Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to power.

"This month's small rise in seasonally adjusted unemployment should be set in the context of the period of lower economic growth expected in 1990 and referred to by the chancellor in his budget statement," Howard said.

Economic treaty will mean single currency

BONN, May 18, (Reuters): East and West Germany sign an economic union treaty today which will give them a single currency and form a blueprint for a unified state.

The treaty on economic, currency and social union sets Sunday, July 1 as the date from which the West German mark becomes legal tender in East Germany.

East German Finance Minister Walter Romberg, who will sign the treaty with his Western counterpart Theo Waigel, said: "We in East Germany know we have started on the road into another country."

East German banks will open on a

Sunday for the first and probably only time to allow people to change their almost worthless marks into crisp, new West German banknotes.

"From July 1, the sole legal means of payment will be Deutsche mark bank notes issued by the German Bundesbank (Central Bank) and Deutsche mark or pfennig coins issued by the Federal Republic," the treaty says.

East Germans will have until July 6 to swap bank notes and coins into the West German variety at the highly favourable rate of one for one.

Savers can swap up to 6,000 marks (\$3,650) at the same rate, depending on

their age. Savings above that level will be swapped at two for one.

East German officials say the state-owned banks will open on Sunday July 1 to avoid massive absenteeism from work and huge queues at the opening of business the next day.

To prevent cheating, East Germans will have to show identification and complete a form, stating, among other things, that they obtained their money legally. And they will have to open a bank account rather than simply exchanging the money over the counter.

The Bundesbank is being almost as

secretive about its preparations for currency union as the Western allies — the United States, Britain and France — were when they laid the groundwork for West Germany's currency reform in 1948.

The replacement of the Nazi Reichsmark by the new Deutsche mark in the Western occupation zones — the Soviet Union refused to participate — paved the way for the emergence of two states on German soil.

It immediately hardened the divisions between the occupation zones and led, in 1949, to the setting up of the free market West German Federal

Republic and the communist German Democratic Republic in the East.

The new currency reform is now being used to heal the divisions created by the previous one.

In spring of 1948, billions of new banknotes, printed in the United States, were secretly stored in the vaults of the old Reich Central Bank in Frankfurt and distributed under military escort throughout the Western zones.

Today, the Bundesbank refuses to disclose how many West German notes and coins it will ship across the border. It even refuses to comment on its plans to train East German bank staff for the

swap. A spokeswoman for the Bundesbank said only that it would not have to print new notes. "East German requirements can be covered from our reserves."

Foreigners who happen to be in East Germany will not be able to take advantage of West Germany's generosity.

Banks will buy back their East German money at the tourist rate — recently upgraded from three to two for one — provided they have receipts to show they did not obtain the money on the black market.

Plan to set up fertiliser plant

Turkey, Iran, Pakistan to boost economic ties

ANKARA, May 18, (Reuters): Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, which want to boost economic and technical exchanges, have agreed to upgrade their Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO).

"We got very firm support from Turkish President (Turgut Ozal) for the common market," a Pakistani spokesman said on Thursday as Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto flew to Syria on the third leg of an eight-nation tour.

Spokesman Tanvir Ahmad Khan said Iran, the first call by Bhutto in her Middle East visit, had assured Pakistan of its full support for a common market.

Khan said foreign secretaries of the three countries met in Tehran on Tuesday and decided to upgrade economic ties.

Bhutto has also advocated to Iran and Turkey that the three

countries should enter a phase of renewed activity.

"We should actively participate, along with Turkey and Iran, in the current efforts to revitalize the ECO," Bhutto told Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut on Wednesday in Ankara.

"We sincerely hope that the ECO will emerge as a useful organisation to promote economic and technical exchanges between its member states."

Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Bhutto in Tehran: "ECO in its new shape, and free from its former imposed and colonial traits, can pave the way for the further closeness of Islamic countries."

It could play a constructive role in creating conditions "conducive to the creation of an Islamic common market, an important and fundamental fac-

tor for the restoration of the grandeur of Islam and Muslims," Rafsanjani said.

Meanwhile, Syria and Pakistan have agreed to set up a phosphate fertiliser plant near Damascus with annual capacity of 300,000 tonnes, a Pakistani spokesman said today.

He reported the agreement following talks between Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Bhutto is on a tour of eight Muslim countries.

The spokesman said the two countries would approach the Islamic Development Bank for loans to buy machinery through international tender.

He did not give the total cost of the project but said it could be several hundred million dollars. The plant, Pakistan's first major project abroad, would employ both Syrians and Pakistanis and

the two countries would split production equally.

The spokesman also said Pakistan had agreed to provide Syria with a \$10 million soft loan to buy Pakistani tractors and other engineering goods.

He said Pakistan had offered a gift of 5,000 tonnes of rice to Syria.

Pakistan has offered to use its port and railway facilities to transport Iranian oil to remote areas of southeast Iran.

"Iran has shown keen interest in the offer," Pakistani Railways Minister Zafar Ali Khan Leghari told reporters.

The plan is to ship oil from Bandar Abbas on the Hormuz Strait to Karachi port from where it would be carried by train to the provincial capital of Zahedan, 1,100 km (680 miles) southeast of Tehran, via Quetta in Pakistan.

Plan to cut spending deficit

ROME, May 18, (Reuters): Italy's cabinet approved a mixture of state spending cuts and revenue increases today to try to brake a runaway 1990 public sector deficit.

Treasury Minister Guido Carli said the moves could help push down high local interest rates.

The mid-year revision to the budget plan, virtually an annual event in Italy, seeks to save about 11.75 trillion lire (\$10 billion) and bring the deficit closer to its initial target of a 133 trillion lire (\$110 billion) shortfall.

"The operation should get us back closer to our initial deficit target," Carli told a news conference.

The package contains a 6.25 trillion lire (\$5.15 billion) boost to revenues, including higher water and gas charges, and 5.5 trillion lire (\$4.5 billion) of spending cuts which the government has yet to detail.

Although Italy can point to one of Europe's highest economic growth rates, the heavy state deficit has long been regarded as a major problem.

Already the highest of any major European economy, it had threatened to overshoot its target by over 10 per cent this year, according to government officials.

World Bank loan for India

WASHINGTON, May 18, (UPI): The World Bank Thursday announced \$362 million in loans to help India expand cement and agricultural production.

A \$300 million World Bank loan will assist India in expanding the production of cement, particularly in regions that have been experiencing shortages, the multilateral organisation said. The project also supports the elimination of controls on the price and distribution of cement.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, May 18, (Reuters): Concern that interest rates may stay high made it hard for the market to shake its four-day doldrums. The Nikkei index lost 47.88 to 32,013.72.

SVENSWEN Bank and insurance shares fell on Thursday's interim bank results. The All Ordinaries index fell 3.4 to 1,478.1.

HONG KONG: Stocks ended firmer after drifting lower and then rebounding on technical factors and positive political news. The Hang Seng index closed 8.26 up at 2,925.89.

SINGAPORE: A surge of foreign buying sent the Straits Times index up 23.97 to 1,552.88.

BOMBAY: Institutional buying countered fears of Indo-Pakistani conflict over Kashmir. The Bombay Stock Exchange index lost 3.34 points to 767.02.

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Bid to strengthen market position

US computer technology stolen

PARIS, May 18, (AP): The United States caught French spies last year who penetrated US computer firms, stole their secrets and fed them to a French manufacturer, a news magazine reported.

The report by the weekly L'Express, which goes on sale today, listed IBM and Texas Instruments among those penetrated two years ago by agents of the Direction Generale de la Securite Extérieure, or DGSE, the French external intelligence service.

L'Express reported its information had been corroborated on both sides of the Atlantic, but it didn't identify its sources.

The spies targeted French subsidiaries of the companies in 1987 and stole their technological secrets to boost the market position of the state-owned computer maker Compagnie des Machines Bull, the magazine reported.

The operation originated at a high level of the French government to protect Bull, which has experienced mounting losses in recent years, the magazine said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation confronted the spies during a trip to the United States last year with details of meetings, stolen files and names of informants, L'Express reported.

A joint team of the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency later visited Paris and informed French authorities of their findings, the magazine said. All the company informants were fired.

Washington refused to publicise the incident to avoid a diplomatic uproar, the magazine said, but high-tech exchanges between intelligence services of the two nations have since come to a standstill.

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Strategy to restore value to the zloty

Eastern Europe starts speeding up pace of currency reform

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): Reformist policy-makers in Eastern Europe, desperate to attract foreign investment and put trade on a new international footing, are speeding up plans to make their practically worthless currencies acceptable in the West.

Hungary and Czechoslovakia both signalled this week that currency convertibility was a top priority in new economic reform programmes, following the lead of Poland whose shock therapy was based on a strategy to restore value to the zloty.

Even the Soviet Union, where debate over economic reform has split Kremlin policy-makers, is being pushed down the road to convertibility by disintegration of the old communist pattern of trade based on barter and

notional rouble exchange rates. "The Poles took a gamble freeing up their exchange rate but it has taken the pressure off the economy," said Ingrid Iversen, economist at American Express Bank in New York.

"It can serve as a good model for moving to convertibility." For decades under communism, currencies in Soviet bloc nations bore little relationship to supply and demand for heavily subsidised goods in the domestic market and exchange rates were way out of line with international trade. It was often a crime to take money out of the country or hold dollars.

But, as the old systems are swept away, policy-makers have quickly become convinced that the key to a

successful transition to Western-style free markets must be currency reform. Two major factors have spurred Eastern Europe into action:

■ The Soviet-led trading group Comecon, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance set up in 1949 as an alternative to the post-war Marshall plan era in the West, is crumbling. Trade within Eastern Europe, which was once based on barter and a notional unit of account, the "transferable rouble," is increasingly shifting to hard Western currency.

■ East European nations are finding that much-needed Western investment is being hampered by businessmen's fears that their capital cannot be freely taken back out of the country. "You can only attract investment if

there are easy conditions for taking capital out again," said Paul Hare, economics professor at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. Budapest and Prague signalled their intentions this week.

Hungary's Finance Minister Designate, Ferenc Rabar, said on Thursday he expected to make the forint convertible by 1992, earlier than a three-year timetable put forward by leading economists before March and April's elections.

And Czechoslovakia's Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Dlouhy, announced on Monday that he hoped to make the crown convertible early next year with "all the risks that will involve."

Although nations such as Hungary have been tinkering with currency reform for years, it is Poland's Solidarity-led government which has made the running with its hard hitting reform programme introduced on January 1 this year.

In an essential first phase — economists call it "domestic convertibility" — the zloty was devalued to what authorities saw as a realistic rate and many prices freed from subsidies.

In a second stage, called "current account convertibility," the Polish government pledged to make foreign exchange available to companies for trade and backed up the promise with a \$1 billion boost to reserves funded by Western governments.

Poland has yet to advance to a third stage of "full convertibility" as in industrial countries where individuals have free access to currency and there are no capital controls.

Economists believe few East European nations will manage this before the end of the decade as they struggle with huge structural problems left over from the communist era.

But they do predict the new democratic legitimacy being conferred on governments in Hungary and Czechoslovakia will enable authorities to take tough decisions necessary to put their trade on a limited convertible basis relatively quickly.

The Soviet Union, however, presents a very different picture and a growing dilemma for President Mik-

hail Gorbachev.

Unpopularity at home makes it difficult for Gorbachev to introduce price reforms in a move to a convertible rouble. But at the same time, the disintegration of Comecon system is forcing Moscow to trade in convertible currencies.

Poland, after negotiations with Moscow, announced on Thursday would switch its trade with the Soviet Union to hard currencies at world prices from January 1 next year.

The same is true for trade with Germany where the move has been forced by Bonn and East Berlin agreement to replace the East German currency with the West German mark from July 1.

Third World increases bank deposits

BASEL, Switzerland, May 18, (Reuters): Third World countries, led by Taiwan and China, substantially increased their deposits in commercial banks of the industrialised nations, according to a survey of the fourth quarter of 1989.

The survey, compiled by the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements and released today, said new deposits by non-Opec Third World countries rose by \$14.6 billion while claims on them by the reporting banks dropped by \$4.7 billion.

It said Taiwanese deposits went up by \$3.7 billion and that the country had repaid \$1.9 billion worth of earlier loans.

China eliminated its net debtor position after adding a further \$3.5 billion to its deposits. Malaysia's deposits with the banks reporting to BIS went up by \$1.3 billion, described in the survey as another significant increase.

Identified claims on Latin American countries, which have declined continuously since 1987, fell by a further \$3.2 billion. Claims on Brazil and Argentina contracted by \$2.2 billion and \$1.4 billion respectively, partly as a result of write-offs and debt conversion programmes.

Deposits by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries increased by \$7.2 billion after declining by \$6.8 billion in the previous quarter. At the same time, claims on Opec countries rose by \$5.7 billion.

New credits extended by commercial banks to Eastern Europe in the fourth quarter totalled \$2 billion, a pace unchanged from the previous three months. New claims increased by \$800 million each for the Soviet Union and East Germany which at the same time withdrew \$500 million worth of its deposits.

The survey is based on data reported by banks in the group of ten leading industrialised countries plus banks in Luxembourg, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Bahamas, Bahrain, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Netherlands Antilles and Singapore as well as branches of US banks in Panama.

The BIS estimated that net international bank lending during the last three months of 1989 totalled \$100 billion, twice the amount for the same quarter a year ago.

Turkey's trade with E. Europe on the rise

ANKARA, May 18, (Reuters): Turkey's trade volume with East European countries rose 38.4 per cent in the first two months of 1990 following increased Turkish loans and intense promotion activity, the State Institute of Statistics (SIS) said.

Turkish exports, mainly consumer goods, to East European countries, rose to \$165 million in January-February 1990 from \$124.9 million in the same 1989 period, a 32.1 per cent increase, it said.

Imports, mainly raw materials, from Eastern Europe rose 43.5 per cent to \$224.7 million from \$156.6 million.

Turkey plans to increase its share in East European markets by boosting total exports which fell by 0.3 per cent in 1989 from the previous year, officials said.

Turkey's Eximbank last week gave Romania an export credit of \$50 million and has offered similar loans to Hungary and Poland. It gave consumer credits totalling \$300 million to the Soviet Union in 1989.

The bank is expected to sign an agreement with the Soviet Union in the next few months for a fresh credit of \$350 million to finance construction projects undertaken by Turkish firms, bank officials said.

Turkish exports to Eastern Europe rose to \$947 million in 1989 from \$554 million a year ago, while imports went up to \$1.1 billion last year from \$870 million in 1988.

Jobless rate expected to rise rapidly in the East

Treaty to merge two German economies

BONN, May 18, (Reuters): East Germany gave up economic and financial sovereignty today when it signed a treaty to merge its economy with West Germany's, the first step to full political unity.

Under the agreement, which comes into force on July 1, West Germany's powerful mark and capitalist free-market laws will be introduced in East Germany.

Here are some facts about the united German economy, using West German data and less reliable East German statistics:

Economic power: West Germany is already Europe's biggest economy and the world's third largest. But a united Germany will only rival the US and Japan as the world's biggest industrial powers once East German living standards rise considerably.

West Germany had a 1989 gross national product of 1,769 trillion marks (\$1,087 trillion), easily dwarfing East German

national income — a narrower definition of economic growth — of 353 billion marks (\$215 billion).

Trade: West Germany in 1989 took over Japan's position of recording the world's largest trade surplus, with a 135 billion mark (\$82 billion) overshoot.

Most of East Germany's trade is conducted with the centralised economies of Eastern Europe in the non-convertible "transferable rouble" — a national unit of account which forms the basis of trade within the Comecon group set up under the Soviet Union's leadership in 1949. As a result, a united Germany will have a commanding trade position in the East bloc.

Industry: East and West German industry, seen as showpieces in their respective economic blocs, both specialise in engineering, cars, electronics and chemicals.

East German industry is

antiquated by Western standards and heavily overmanned, employing around 40 per cent of the country's workforce compared with only 25 per cent in West Germany. East Germany's service sector is much less developed than West Germany's.

Labour market: A united Germany will have a workforce of about 36 million people. Of a total population of 77.7 million, roughly 60 million are in what is now West Germany.

Unemployment: currently around two million in West Germany, is expected to rise rapidly in the East to nearly the same number as inefficient firms go bankrupt. Figures released on Tuesday in East Berlin by the newly founded association for the unemployed showed the number of jobless in East Germany has soared to over 100,000 — more than triple the total in March.

Agriculture: Agriculture, forestry and fishing account for five per cent of jobs in West Germany but 11 per cent in the East.

Most West German farms are smallholders while East Germany's agriculture is organised into state-owned co-operatives. East Germany expects half of its 800,000 farmers to lose their jobs soon.

West Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said they had not yet decided whether to vote in favour of the treaty when it came before parliament for ratification next month.

"There are still a lot of open questions," SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said in a radio interview.

The radical environmentalist Greens rejected the treaty, saying it had not been concluded between two free and equal partners.

Investors Forum to host special meeting

Ajit Singh, Gujral to attend NRI seminar

THE two member delegation comprising Ajit Mehta, chairman, 3rd Gulf NRI Seminar Organising Committee and R.P. Singh, first secretary, Indian embassy, Kuwait returned recently after a successful visit to finalise various arrangements.

Deli response has been very encouraging both from the government as well as trade sectors, according to Ajit Mehta, the official spokesman.

Industry Minister, A.P. Singh and External Affairs Minister, I.K. Gujral have already confirmed their acceptance to be the special guests at the seminar, which will be held between 4th to 6th July, 1990 at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi.

It is expected that the Indian Prime Minister, V.P. Singh will grace the seminar on the concluding day, but not on the opening day due to other prior commitments.

The delegation also called on the Finance Minister, Madhu Dandavate to apprise him about the planned seminar and NRI Investors Forum's activities. The Forum has requested the finance minister to inaugurate the seminar.

The delegation also met a number of senior Indian government officials especially in the finance, external affairs and commerce ministries. Most of the senior government officers who have been invited to the seminar, have confirmed their participation.

The delegation held discussions with the chairman, FICCI and chairman, ASSOCHAM about the proposed seminar as well as other areas for co-operation between the NRI community and Indian bodies. It is expected that several members from both these federations will be present at the seminar.

Mehta also explained that a special session will be devoted to discuss the NRI's educational issues. Education Secretary, Government of India, and Education Secretary, Karnataka state government have been requested to be on the panel which will also comprise leading educationists from professional colleges in India as well as Indian schools in the Gulf. This session will focus on the higher education requirements for NRI children while also highlighting the major problems confronting the NRI community in sending their children to private institutions in India. Special sub-groups in Kuwait and Dubai are already working to prepare a composite paper on this subject. It is proposed to make special suggestions to alleviate the major problems presently confronting the Gulf NRI community in this regard.

Arrangements have also been finalised to stage a classical dance performance from a reputed Indian dancer on an evening during the seminar. Special site seeing and shopping trips for the accompanying ladies and children have also been finalised on the selected days.

Chairman, NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait, C.S.S. Khanpuri has made a special appeal to all NRIs to avail of the special subsidised rates for the seminar and register their participation at Kuwait India International Exchange Co., Kuwait or Fakhari at the earliest.

NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait is hosting a special meeting at the Indian embassy on Friday 25th May 1990 at 11.00 am where all NRIs as well as members of all Indian associations are requested to attend. A detailed presentation on the seminar arrangements and subsidised rates applicable will be made at this meeting.

American trade gap climbs

WASHINGTON, May 18, (Reuters): The US trade deficit climbed a sharp 39 per cent in March as imports surged more than offsetting a record level of exports, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

The wider deficit wiped out a sharp drop in the February trade gap, economists said the trade picture was more encouraging than it appeared because strong overseas growth was helping exports.

"A rising tide lifts all ships and our exports are doing extremely well overseas," Allen Sinai, chief economist with the Boston Co in New York.

The March trade gap widened to a seasonally adjusted \$8.45 billion, overshadowing a 34.6 per cent improvement in February, when the deficit fell to a revised \$6.1 billion the lowest since December 1983.

Exports rose a healthy 4.6 per cent to a record \$33.28 billion showing that US manufacturers are benefiting from strong foreign demand for American goods.

America's total import bill rose 10 per cent to \$41.72 billion in March in the biggest surge since September 1985.

The Bush administration predicted major improvement

in the deficit in trade with the rest of the world this year because of increasing sales abroad.

"I expect that we will see the trade deficit break \$100 billion this year," Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher said in a statement.

That would be steady progress from a record \$152 billion deficit in 1987, \$118.5 billion in 1988 and \$109 billion last year. The deficit has exceeded \$100 billion every year since 1983, when it was \$52.4 billion.

The National Association of Manufacturers, representing most of America's major industries, said it was pleasantly surprised at the apparently improving trade trend but sounded a note of caution.

"The key question is whether all this holds up for the rest of 1990," said Howard Lewis, the industry group's vice-president of international economic affairs.

He noted that the Japanese yen has fallen about six per cent in value, which makes Japan's goods cheaper for Americans.

The US deficit with Japan — troublesome politically as well as in economic terms — grew in March to \$3.62 billion from \$3.12 billion in February.

Economic welfare focus of next decade

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 18, (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday foresaw a cooling of the radical revolution which swept his country more than 11 years ago, Tehran Radio reported.

Rafsanjani predicted that his people will likely be concerned with welfare and economic well-being in the next decade.

The radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted him as saying that "as the revolutionary conditions of the country are normalised, society's political sensitivity will decrease and attention to welfare and material issues will increase."

Speaking to provincial officials in Tehran, he told them to "move according to the conditions of the time, and create an economic-political balance in

society in accordance with the government's precise programmes," the radio said.

Rafsanjani is trying to pull his country out of the economic mess left by the chaotic 1979 revolution and a devastating eight-year war with Iraq.

Sources in Tehran report giving public dissatisfaction with the economy.

Iranians daily must contend with shortages of almost all consumer goods, runaway inflation and an artificially inflated currency which is all but worthless abroad.

Since his election in July, Rafsanjani has tried to repair Iran's pariah international image by tempering the revolutionary hostility towards the West, from where he hopes to attract investment and advanced technology

for the flagging economy.

As a result, he has been under attack by a rival anti-Western radical camp, led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Ahmad Khomeini, son of the late Revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Khomeini.

The radicals fear that relations with the West would compromise the "neither East nor West" principle laid down by Khomeini to preserve Iran's neutrality vis-a-vis the superpowers, and spell the end of the revolution.

Ahmad, who holds no official position in the government but wields considerable influence as the late Khomeini's only surviving son, Wednesday called on the government to clarify its policy toward the West.

Banks move to protect currencies

SANAA, May 18, (Reuters): The central banks of North and South Yemen, preparing for the merging of the two countries, agreed yesterday to protect their currencies from a looming black market.

Both banks recently devalued their currencies nearly 24 per cent with the new exchange rate for the US dollar fixed at 12 North Yemeni rials and 0.461 South Yemeni dinars.

But traders said yesterday the dollar's value against the rial on the black market was still 33 per cent higher than the official rate.

Radio Sanaa said the two central banks agreed to "take all necessary measures to defend their exchange rates against other currencies and fix those rates through tightening monetary controls... and intensifying steps against smuggling."

A huge smuggling operation, controlled by tribesmen in the North, is one of the problems facing the two Yemens as they prepare to merge later this month after 300 years as separate states.

Bankers and economists say the black market trade with neighbouring oil-rich Saudi Arabia is worth around \$2 billion a year and supplies most of North Yemen's private sector needs.

First woman bank president

VIENNA, May 18, (Reuters): Austria on Thursday appointed a woman for the first time as president of its central bank, the National Bank of Austria, a government spokesman said.

Maria Schumayer, 58, a former director of state oil company Oemv, replaces Hellmuth Klaus, who died last month.

He referred to the "existence of two trends of thought in the country," and said this "confused the population."

Speaking to provincial officials a day before Rafsanjani, he said that "if the 'neither East nor West' principle is stressed, then the people must be told to what extent this is being followed, and why it is not being adhered to further."

In an apparent attack on Rafsanjani's administration for what the radicals see as compromises with the West, Khomeini said that "the point of compromise or no compromise must be defined."

Rafsanjani's rivals have accused him of giving in to the West by gaining release of two American hostages last month from their Iranian captors.

Good times over for Taiwan stock market

TAIPEI, May 18, (Reuters): Taiwan's stock market, which once seemed to exist only to make millions out of housewives, is suffering a dramatic reversal in fortunes as investors dump stocks and analysts forecast further declines.

The market dropped sharply once again today, with the weighted index losing 6.4 per cent to end at 7,416.96, its lowest point since April 1989.

Today's fall also placed the index 40.6 per cent below the index's all-time high of 12,495.34 on Feb 2 this year — a shocking turnaround for a market that soared 88 per cent in 1989, 119 per cent in 1988 and 120 per cent in 1987.

The iron hubbly has got some serious cracks," said John Engle, president of Hoare Govett in Taiwan.

Analysts say the market is paying for the tremendous rises of the past, which occurred without relation to the underlying value of the companies.

"You have \$200 billion worth of bluff in this market. Why is it going down? If you held up a superman in the air with your right arm, eventually you'd get tired and it'd come down," said Peter Kurz, managing director of Baring Securities in Taiwan.

Illegal margin lenders, who have financed up to a third of all trades, are forcing clients to liquidate

their positions — "cutting heads" in the local idiom. Even the big players, known for manipulating the market to their advantage, are having serious financial troubles and some are defaulting on trades, brokers said.

Most of the today's losses came in the final 45 minutes of trade as rumours swept the market for defaults among some major market players.

James Lin, analyst at Ting Kong Securities, said there was no support for the market in the near term. "Stocks are overvalued, the political situation here is not stable, there are rumours. The market is very weak and actually it is a crash," he said.

Analysts disagree on how low the market will go before turning around again.

"On the bullish side the stop points is 7,400. On the bear side it is 6,000," said James Wu, vice-president at BT Yuen Fong Securities.

But Lin said: "If 7,000 is not supported, then 6,000 cannot get support and the market will fall to 5,500."

That would take the Taiwan market, once one of the wonders of the financial world, back to where it was in January 1989.

And dreams of easy wealth for thousands of housewives, labourers, drivers and secretaries will have been destroyed.

Plan to set up economic bloc

TOKYO, May 18, (Knaa): South Korean President Roh Tae-woo and the Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu are likely to discuss possibilities of forming an economic bloc.

The two leaders are in Tokyo for talks which are part of a series of visits by Japanese Prime Minister Taro Nakayama who visited Seoul last April.

Roh was quoted as saying that the world's centre will be transformed to Asia in the 21st century and that Japan and South Korea should establish significant relations.

The sources anticipated that Kaifu will completely support holding of a ministerial meeting of the Asian and Pacific Economic Co-operation Council in Seoul next year.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 32013.72 (-47.88)	
Volume: 480 million shares	Yen exchange rate: 152.82
Name of stock	
Advantech Corp	5590
Ajinomoto	2100
Alps Elec	2040
Amada	1660
Asahi Chem Ind	925
Asahi Glass	1850
C. Itoh Co	89
Canon Inc	1720
Casio Comp	1640
Dai Nippon Printing	1950
Daiichi Seiyaku	2520
Daiippon Ind	1990
Daiichi Corp	1700
Eisai	1860
Fujitsu Ltd	1160
Fuji Photo	4140
Fujitsu Ltd	1480
Hitachi Credit	1690
Hitachi Koki	2180
Hitachi Ltd	1400
Hitachi Metal	1430
Honda Motor	1820
Ito Yokado Co	4130
Kajima Corp	1760
Kawada Ind	900
Kobe Cast Iron	1550
Kokusai Elec	4990
Komatsu Ltd	1110
Kyocera Corp	1750
Matsushita Ind	3710
Matsushita	2260
Mazda MC	909
Mitsubishi Corp	1550
Mitsubishi Estate	1610
Mitsubishi UFJ	1510
Mitsui Bussan	1870
Mitsui E&C	1800
Mitsui F&I	3990
Mori Seiki Co	3780
NEC Corp	1130
Nippon Chem	1590
Nippon Steel Corp	1200
Nippondensu	615
Nissankogyo	2200
Nomura Sec	2360
Okuma Mach	1630
Onward K Co	1910
Ory Corp	4900
Pioneer Elec Co	5940
Renovon Look Inc	2010
Sanyo Elec Co	713
Sanyo Sec Co	6100
Shimadzu Corp	1710
Shindengen Elec	1270
Sony Corp	8680
Sumitomo Elec Ind	1590
S. Metal Ind	611
Takada Chemical	1770
TDK Corp	6650
Tokio Marine & Fire	1570
Tokyo Elec Power	4710
Tokyo Electron Ltd	4200
Topyan Printing	1890
Tray Ind Inc	860
Toshiba Corp	1680
Toyota Motor	2430
Yaskawa Elec	1050

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION WINNERS AND LOSERS

Investor Program for Doctors

Written by John Garuffi

Qualifications of our Company
International Entrepreneurs I.E.C. Ltd., established in 1980, is one of Canada's largest investment and immigration consulting companies. Our company has offices in major cities in Canada as well as offices and affiliations throughout the world.

International Entrepreneurs I.E.C. Ltd., over the years has assisted many business people in applying and obtaining Canadian Permanent Residency and establishing themselves in Canada.

International Entrepreneurs I.E.C. Ltd., provides a complete service that assists the applicant entrepreneur from the time he first applies for Canadian Permanent Residency to the time he fully establishes himself and his family in Canada.

Services provided by our Company
Pre-Selection:



Prameela Surendran and Balram Chowdhry performing a semi-classical number.

Narthana turns 6

Narthana celebrated sixth anniversary by organising Parent's Day with a dance and music night at the Indian embassy hall recently. About 500 people attended the programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Prema Mohan, the mother of the senior-most student (first student) of Narthana Kumari Ranjini Mohan.

Narthana started with only two students to learn Bharathanatyam and Mohiniyattam later on was able to train more than 200 students. At present about 80 students are regularly getting their dance coaching from Prameela Surendran.

The programme was followed by 10 dance items Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam and folk numbers. Second part of the programme was a music concert led by prominent singers Sunny and Sasikala. Also Saraswathy Appukuttan Sunny, a classical Keerthanam and Kumari Sabhasi Appukuttan and Sahyan Appukuttan also sang some songs.

M. T. Abraham distributed the prizes. Later Prameela wished all the best for Narthana's outgoing students. Geetha Philip and Shibu Appukuttan.



Young talents.



The inauguration — lighting the traditional lamp.



Geetha Philip — first dance in the programme.

BBC world service highlights

Preservation or progress?

Last year leading British actors and actresses joined the protest against the redevelopment of London's Rose Theatre where Shakespeare is thought to have performed. Conservation has always been an uphill struggle against the demands of progress even in Britain which has been linked to a great historical and archaeological site. *Preservation of Progress* tries to discover whether it is possible to protect monuments of the past and construct modern day buildings and businesses.

Friday, May 25 at 10:30 and 15:15.

Short story

"*Ethan's Watch*" is the tale of a Jewish child, orphaned by the Second World War, who yearns for security and fantasises an identity to obtain it. The story is written by two World Services listeners living in Israel: Zena Holland, a Scot who settled there in 1953, and Cila Kupissnoff who was born in

Russia and raised in Belgium where she lived during the war years. Throughout the four years of Nazi occupation she lived in the Arden mountains thereby escaping deportation. She is a social worker with a special interest in child welfare.

Sunday, May 20 at 12:45, Monday, May 21 at 22:45 and Friday, May 25 at 16:30.

The Ultimate Invention

Simon Callow and Alan Bennett star in Oon Haworth's play which is set in the 19th century. Grand Duke Alexander has cash flow problems, his duchy is bankrupt, and rich, single princesses are none too keen to marry impoverished grand dukes. What can be done? Alexander decides to entrust his future to an inventor whose latest masterpiece will, hopefully, restore the duchy's fortune.

Sunday, May 20 at 15:01 and 22:01.
Recommended frequencies are: 17.64MHz/17.01m; 15.07MHz/19.91m; 11.76MHz/25.51m.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Salamiyah
Arabic film
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Meraa Suhaag
Fahadhel Open
Desh ke Dushman
Fahadhel
Annayavanu Pattiya Amali
Al Jahra
Iron Angels II
Cranella
C.O.D.
Salaikhah
Arabic film
Jesh
Carnival
Ahmadi Drive-in
Survivalist

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.23 am
Zuhr 11.44
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.36
Isha 8.03

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.25 Arabic play — Al Tarahum
12.30 News in Brief and Closedown
Evening:
4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 The Little Artist
5.30 Public announcements
6.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.00 Songs
7.15 Nour Al Islam
7.45 Cultural programme
7.50 Security and the Public
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Weekly Programme — Dairat Al Ahdath
10.15 Arabic serial
11.15 Arabic weekly serial about poets
12.00 News in brief
12.05 World Today via Satellite and Closedown

children
Take Hart — Mixing colours in water... Colours reflection on water...
7.00 Survival
7.30 Out of this World
Froggy Day in Marlowe Town — Evie uses a frog to provoke Chris' jealousy.
8.00 News in English.
8.30 Philip Marlowe
Private Eye — "Guns at Cyrano's" — Cyrano, a businessman charges Marlowe to protect boxer Duke, and his girlfriend, Gene, a forsaken daughter of a senator.
9.30 The Road to War — USSR — On August 24, 1939, communist Russia signed a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany. Stalin's brutal industrialisation and collectivisation of the 1930s had left the Soviet Union the larger military power in the world...
10.30 Feature film — "My Father, My Son" — A struggle waged by a Vietnam veteran against cancer caused by chemical weapons used in the war...
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 A cartoon series for

children
Take Hart — Mixing colours in water... Colours reflection on water...
7.00 Survival
7.30 Out of this World
Froggy Day in Marlowe Town — Evie uses a frog to provoke Chris' jealousy.
8.00 News in English.
8.30 Philip Marlowe
Private Eye — "Guns at Cyrano's" — Cyrano, a businessman charges Marlowe to protect boxer Duke, and his girlfriend, Gene, a forsaken daughter of a senator.
9.30 The Road to War — USSR — On August 24, 1939, communist Russia signed a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany. Stalin's brutal industrialisation and collectivisation of the 1930s had left the Soviet Union the larger military power in the world...
10.30 Feature film — "My Father, My Son" — A struggle waged by a Vietnam veteran against cancer caused by chemical weapons used in the war...
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Galleri Dahiyat
Abdullah Al Salem
THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

Indian Arts Circle
HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has again extended the last date of its essay competition for April 15 to May 31, 1990. The date has been extended at the popular demand because many interested students were unable to participate in the competition due to the examinations and later due to the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. The essay competition on the topic *My role in building a better Pakistan* is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants. The panel of judges includes: Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdusattar Ghazali. Essays may be mailed to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, Kuwait, 22024. For further details, contact: 2425315, Fax: 5323751.

Tamil drama
IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Entusiasts", after their last year's roaring success of *Unnaiye Umm Vilai Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.
For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879.

Crazy Thieves
IAC presents a full length hilarious Tamil comedy drama "Crazy Thieves" directed by C. K. V. Raman, on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm at their auditorium in Funaites. For passes please contact on 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879. Vantage seats can be received for yellow and white passes only on May 23 and 24, 1990 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm at IAC office in Funaites.

Polish Charity Concert
THE Polish Charity Concert will take place on Wednesday, May 16, and Thursday, May 24, 8 pm, at the Mousetrap Theatre (New English School, Jabriya). Polish and Yugoslavian musicians will perform in rich selection of classical music, including Chopin, Schubert, Brahms etc. In addition, a light-and-sound-show — Faces of the Desert with electronic music, composed by Mark Bilinsky and Video-rama Jacek Wozniak will be shown. Tickets for KD5 can be bought daily from 4-6 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre box office. For telephone bookings call 2667624/4747879.

Yoga lessons
For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext. 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lak bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Kalpak celebrates 1st anniversary
Kerala Arts & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait celebrates its 1st anniversary at Indian embassy auditorium on Friday, May 25, 1990 at 5.00 pm.
A variety show will be held following the function to mark the anniversary celebrations.

Crazy Thieves
IAC presents full length hilarious Tamil comedy drama "Crazy Thieves" directed by C. K. V. Raman, on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm at their auditorium in Funaites. For passes please contact on Tel: 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879. Vantage seats can be reserved for yellow and white passes only on May 23 and 24, 1990 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm at IAC office in Funaites.

Kuwait Welsh Society
THE annual general meeting and social evening will be held at 8 pm on May 23, 1990. For details of venue etc., please ring 3912384, 3713467 or 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

Filchek Inter-commercial Chess Tourney
THE Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filchek) is now accepting entries for this year's Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament wherein each participating team will be composed of four regular players and two alternates. Group A rated players are qualified to play Boards 1 and 2 while Group B players will man Boards 3 and 4 with both groups having one alternate each. Non-Filchek members can also be fielded but will have to take a series of tests to determine their individual rating.

The tournament is open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms are now available at the Filchek headquarters at the new Kabayan Restaurant and the deadline for the submission of entries is on Friday, May 25, 1990. Opening ceremonies will be held on June 8, 1990 at the Messilah Beach Club during the Pre-Independence Day celebration being organised by the Philippine embassy.

For more details, please call Filchek Headquarters at Tel. 240-2405.

Santacruzans sa Nayon
THE newly-inaugurated Cafe Maharika, owned and managed by two budding Filipino entrepreneurs — Rene Olzon and Larry Gallardo will hold the traditional "Santacruzans sa Nayon" on May 25. This will be a sort of beauty tilt searching for the most beautiful "Reyna Elena".

For contest particulars, anyone who's interested can contact either Rene or Larry at Cafe Maharika located at Fahd Al Salem Street, Kuwait City, between Hardees and Souk Al Muttahida.

Boushahri Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Oiyah, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'ci. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

Contact
THE last meeting of Contact, the Ladies Information Group, will be held on Saturday May 26, at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Newcomers particularly welcome. For more information call 4874513 or 5388105.

NRI Up-date
THE NRI Investors Forum meeting in Indian embassy auditorium at 11.00 am on Friday, May 25, 1990. Up-to-date reporting on forthcoming Third Gulf NRI Conference in New Delhi. All Indians cordially invited.

Summer Affair '90
"Summer Affair '90" which had been postponed, will now be held on Thursday, May 24, 1990, at the Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights will be the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen and Miss Kodak. Passes held by guests are still valid. For reservations "please" contact Julio 4315425, Hilary 5741380 and Mercedes 4890566.

Guardian Angel Club
The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancilio Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Seby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Pakistan Arts Circle
THE executive committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle has the pleasure to announce its forthcoming programme, to be held on June 7, 1990, at 8.00 pm at the Sharq hall.

For further information, please contact Hamid Mahmood Tel. 4716258, Salman Shah 4769520 and M. K. Kidwai 4312016.

Kuwait players
KUWAIT Players presents A Room Full of Foreigners from May 28 to May 31 at the U.A.S. — Salwa — at 8.00 pm. For reservations phone 5321294 or 5615357.

Salignocars
CALLING all Salignocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloio Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Cedric O'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Konkani non-stop show
A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Ulorda, organised by Ulorda Lourdes. Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

SPORTS

United Goans Centre
MAY 24, 1990: United Goans Centre takes pleasure to announce to all the Kiff affiliated clubs, their 12th Football League Tournament to be held during the last week of June at the Sour grounds. Draws will be held on the May 24, 1990 at 5 pm sharp in the Indian Ceasars Restaurant. Contact the organisers for further details.

Windsurfing
ALL are welcome to the Messilah Beach Hotel open

windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.
Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size 1D 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

HOTELS

Meridian Hotel
INDONESIAN CORNER: Enjoy Indonesian cuisine every Wednesday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you.

JAZZ NIGHT: Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties every Thursday in La Brasserie restaurant.

Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist every Friday in La Brasserie restaurant. Friday: Family day in La Brasserie.

VERSAILLES: Take advantage of our great value business lunch including starter, main course, dessert and coffee.

For dinner enjoy relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artiste and finest cuisine with a la carte menu featuring chef specialties as fish or beef "fondue", grilled beef on "brasserie", ham-mour and salmon on "shingle" and many others.

Kuwait Sheraton
RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.

Meridian Kuwait
THAI CORNER: Enjoy Thai cuisine every Saturday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Thai specialties in front of you.

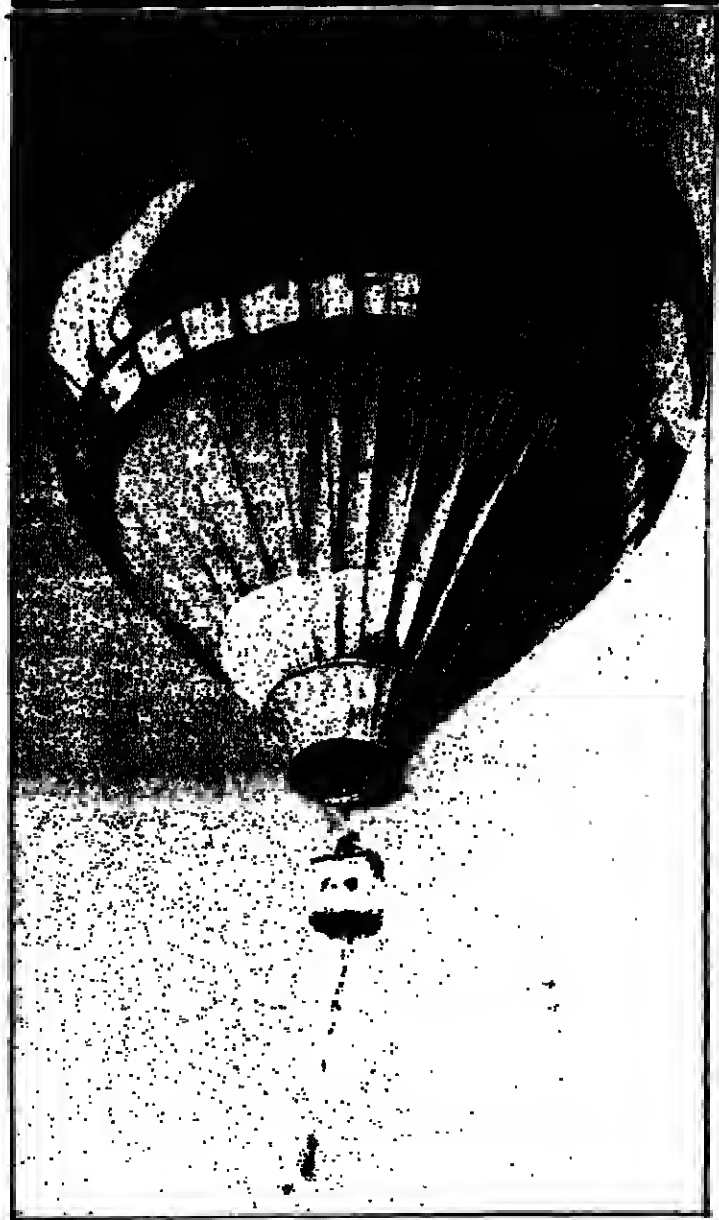
COWBOY NIGHT: Every Sunday enjoy live country music, Western decor and hearty ranch food: prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great desserts including mom's apple pie. Join us at La Brasserie for a real country hoo-down.

Messilah Beach Hotel
Al Mubarakiah restaurant: The only 24-hour restaurant/coffee shop in Kuwait. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner or any time for refreshments and snacks.

Wedne.days — special seafood promotions: Starting 7 pm with a selection of your favourite fish dishes prepared to your liking in the relaxed atmosphere decorated with that maritime touch and live background music.

Fridays — special buffet: A go go with a large variety of Middle Eastern and Continental dishes.

BBO: Every Thursday night in Al Berdownah the Beach Garden Restaurant offering Lebanese mezzas, grills, fresh salads.



A hot air balloon over Kuwait

The week-long Austrian Festival at Kuwait International Hotel sponsored by Austrian Airlines had a unique and exciting aspect — a hot air balloon which flew over Kuwait! Due to windy weather conditions it could not start its maiden voyage the first few days. Finally the wind calmed down and the pilot, Josef Starkbaum announced that he was ready to be airborne! It was a breathtaking sight as the balloon unfurled and burst into brilliant colours as it soared gracefully up, up and away. Josef Starkbaum is a captain of Austrian Airlines. He is the world champion in gas balloon flying and second in world ranking for hot air balloon flying.

An establishment requires a full-time Office Clerk

With knowledge of Arabic and English, suitable for book-keeping, commercial correspondence and typing (Arabic & English)
Please apply to P.O. Box 5117, Safat 13052 Kuwait.

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



GATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



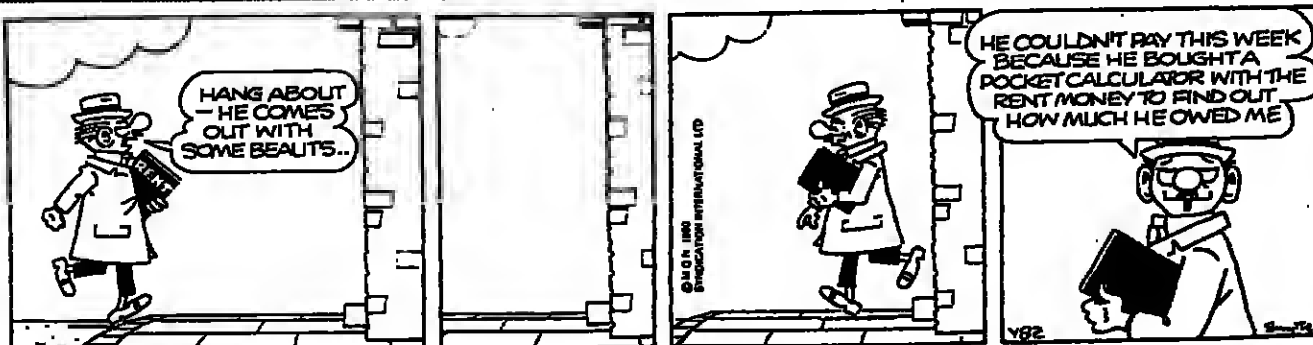
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



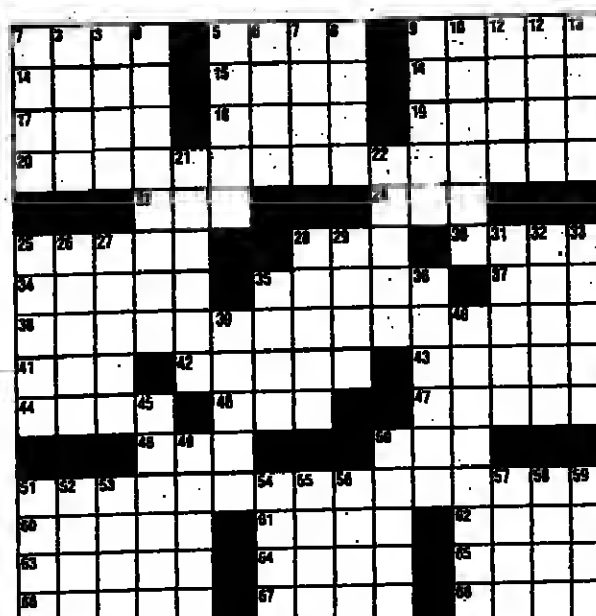
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 General Bradley
- 5 Sidewalk eatery
- 9 Weighing device
- 14 "— le roi": long live the king
- 15 Olive genus
- 16 Made do
- 17 Kind of code or rug
- 18 The red planet
- 19 Goddess of peace
- 20 Three Jacks
- 23 Actor Carney
- 24 Bill
- 25 Biblical land
- 28 Small island
- 30 Tree part
- 34 Tresses
- 35 "The Three Musketeers" author
- 37 Corp. employee
- 38 Three Queens
- 41 — Vegas
- 42 White sale purchase
- 43 Golf tournaments
- 44 Social insects
- 46 Omaha's state: Abbr.
- 47 Winfrey of TV
- 48 Child's game
- 50 Health resort
- 51 Three Kings
- 60 Young eel
- 61 Heraldic wreath
- 62 1964 British Open champion
- 63 Corpulent
- 64 Fluency
- 65 God of love
- 66 Parsonage
- 67 Winglike parts
- 68 Comedian Dick Van

DOWN

- 1 Femous office
- 2 Spanish painter
- 3 State
- 4 Legible
- 5 Celestial body
- 6 Alda or King
- 7 Featherly plant
- 8 "— does it"
- 9 Descendant
- 10 Hollywood's Wide
- 11 Minicked
- 12 Comic Jay
- 13 "East of —"
- 21 Republica Federative do —, SA
- 22 Faithful
- 25 La —, Milano
- 26 Chinese province
- 27 Lubitsch of film fame
- 28 Berry of a pepper family shrub
- 29 So be it
- 31 Glowing bit of coal
- 32 US booster rocket
- 33 Like a daisy
- 35 Borgie, for one
- 36 Sailboats
- 39 Char
- 40 Dismayed
- 45 Underscore
- 49 Concur
- 50 Military operation
- 51 Math. course
- 52 Exile isle
- 53 Part of a stove
- 54 Indian water vessel
- 55 Spoken
- 56 Arm bona
- 57 Weird
- 58 Run —, be undisciplined
- 59 Demolish, British style

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MESH AGNEW SHUN
ARIA GOUDA CANE
MARSHALL ISLANDS
ATE ATALE ARGOT
STEN ODE
GENIES TEND ERE
ATOP PEACE DIM
MARSHALL SERVICE
UPS DVATE ACHE
TEE PITY PESTER
SID SEIRE
ASPEN ESTER LEA
GEORGE MARSHALL
ECRU CHUTE URAL
STEM TOTED MANY

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠J10652 ♥Q85 ♦72 ♣A83. Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two hearts. What do you respond?
A.—When partner opens with a forcing two-bid, odds are he has a long, strong suit. With such good support, don't waste time puttering around with the spade suit. Bid three hearts, to set the trump suit and allow for the orderly investigation of slam.
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠KQ9 ♥AQ7 ♦9872 ♣AQ7. Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
A.—There's a textbook response when you hold a balanced 16-18 points and no ruffing value, i.e., a 4-3-3-3 hand pattern. Jump to three no trump.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AJ108763 ♥85 ♦AKJ8 ♣Void. Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—There are two ways to treat this hand—either an immediate jump shift to two spades, or a simple one-spade response, with the intention of jumping in diamonds on the next round. Since your spade suit is almost self-sufficient, we lean toward the immediate jump shift.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AJ108763 ♥85 ♦AKJ8 ♣Void. The bidding has proceeded:
1♣ 2♦ 3♥ 4♠ 5♥ 6♠ 7♥ 8♠ 9♠ 10♠ 11♠ 12♠ 13♠ 14♠ 15♠ 16♠ 17♠ 18♠ 19♠ 20♠ 21♠ 22♠ 23♠ 24♠ 25♠ 26♠ 27♠ 28♠ 29♠ 30♠ 31♠ 32♠ 33♠ 34♠ 35♠ 36♠ 37♠ 38♠ 39♠ 40♠ 41♠ 42♠ 43♠ 44♠ 45♠ 46♠ 47♠ 48♠ 49♠ 50♠ 51♠ 52♠ 53♠ 54♠ 55♠ 56♠ 57♠ 58♠ 59♠ 60♠ 61♠ 62♠ 63♠ 64♠ 65♠ 66♠ 67♠ 68♠ 69♠ 70♠ 71♠ 72♠ 73♠ 74♠ 75♠ 76♠ 77♠ 78♠ 79♠ 80♠ 81♠ 82♠ 83♠ 84♠ 85♠ 86♠ 87♠ 88♠ 89♠ 90♠ 91♠ 92♠ 93♠ 94♠ 95♠ 96♠ 97♠ 98♠ 99♠ 100♠ 101♠ 102♠ 103♠ 104♠ 105♠ 106♠ 107♠ 108♠ 109♠ 110♠ 111♠ 112♠ 113♠ 114♠ 115♠ 116♠ 117♠ 118♠ 119♠ 120♠ 121♠ 122♠ 123♠ 124♠ 125♠ 126♠ 127♠ 128♠ 129♠ 130♠ 131♠ 132♠ 133♠ 134♠ 135♠ 136♠ 137♠ 138♠ 139♠ 140♠ 141♠ 142♠ 143♠ 144♠ 145♠ 146♠ 147♠ 148♠ 149♠ 150♠ 151♠ 152♠ 153♠ 154♠ 155♠ 156♠ 157♠ 158♠ 159♠ 160♠ 161♠ 162♠ 163♠ 164♠ 165♠ 166♠ 167♠ 168♠ 169♠ 170♠ 171♠ 172♠ 173♠ 174♠ 175♠ 176♠ 177♠ 178♠ 179♠ 180♠ 181♠ 182♠ 183♠ 184♠ 185♠ 186♠ 187♠ 188♠ 189♠ 190♠ 191♠ 192♠ 193♠ 194♠ 195♠ 196♠ 197♠ 198♠ 199♠ 200♠ 201♠ 202♠ 203♠ 204♠ 205♠ 206♠ 207♠ 208♠ 209♠ 210♠ 211♠ 212♠ 213♠ 214♠ 215♠ 216♠ 217♠ 218♠ 219♠ 220♠ 221♠ 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622♠ 623♠ 624♠ 625♠ 626♠ 627♠ 628♠ 629♠ 630♠ 631♠ 632♠ 633♠ 634♠ 635♠ 636♠ 637♠ 638♠ 639♠ 640♠ 641♠ 642♠ 643♠ 644♠ 645♠ 646♠ 647♠ 648♠ 649♠ 650♠ 651♠ 652♠ 653♠ 654♠ 655♠ 656♠ 657♠ 658♠ 659♠ 660♠ 661♠ 662♠ 663♠ 664♠ 665♠ 666♠ 667♠ 668♠ 669♠ 670♠ 671♠ 672♠ 673♠ 674♠ 675♠ 676♠ 677♠ 678♠ 679♠ 680♠ 681♠ 682♠ 683♠ 684♠ 685♠ 686♠ 687♠ 688♠ 689♠ 690♠ 691♠ 692♠ 693♠ 694♠ 695♠ 696♠ 697♠ 698♠ 699♠ 700♠ 701♠ 702♠ 703♠ 704♠ 705♠ 706♠ 707♠ 708♠ 709♠ 710♠ 711♠ 712♠ 713♠ 714♠ 715♠ 716♠ 717♠ 718♠ 719♠ 720♠ 721♠ 722♠ 723♠ 724♠ 725♠ 726♠ 727♠ 728♠ 729♠ 730♠ 731♠ 732♠ 733♠ 734♠ 735♠ 736♠ 737♠ 738♠ 739♠ 740♠ 741♠ 742♠ 743♠ 744♠ 745♠ 746♠ 747♠ 748♠ 749♠ 750♠ 751♠ 752♠ 753♠ 754♠ 755♠ 756♠ 757♠ 758♠ 759♠ 760♠ 761♠ 762♠ 763♠ 764♠ 765♠ 766♠ 767♠ 768♠ 769♠ 770♠ 771♠ 772♠ 773♠ 774♠ 775♠ 776♠ 777♠ 778♠ 779♠ 780♠ 781♠ 782♠ 783♠ 784♠ 785♠ 786♠ 787♠ 788♠ 789♠ 790♠ 791♠ 792♠ 793♠ 794♠ 795♠ 796♠ 797♠ 798♠ 799♠ 800♠ 801♠ 802♠ 803♠ 804♠ 805♠ 806♠ 807♠ 808♠ 809♠ 810♠ 811♠ 812♠ 813♠ 814♠ 815♠ 816♠ 817♠ 818♠ 819♠ 820♠ 821♠ 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Everything goes wrong when she's flying!

ACTRESS turned radio presenter Suzy Walton is an expert on travel — but she admits to being the worst traveller she knows.

Suzy, 27, flies to a different destination every two weeks. And although she loves to travel and would never give up her job, she says she is terrified of flying and claims to attract all types of disaster.

In the past three years that she has presented the networked LBC programme *The Travel Show*, she has been in a plane struck by lightning, survived two earthquakes and a hurricane and was in a lift when the cable snapped.

These incidents are now becoming so regular that colleagues refuse to travel with her. Suzy told me: "It's only since I've been doing this job that all these things happen."

"You could say the law of averages makes these things more likely to happen because of the amount of travelling I do. But there are businessmen I know who do much more travelling than me, and nothing strange has ever happened to them."

Suzy, who starred for three years in London's West End in the play *Children of a Lesser God*, went on: "It has become so bad now that whenever I do anything, I make sure nothing can go wrong."

"Right now we are in the middle of moving offices. I have five year's worth of travel tapes here. I know that if I put them in the removal van, something dreadful will happen."

"And whenever I get on a plane, the first thing I do is check under the seat to make sure the life-jacket is there. I always assume I'm going to need it."

"People laugh at me because I won't go in lifts and I hate the London Underground. I have always been afraid of flying and in my line of work I have to go on a plane every couple of weeks. I can't avoid it."

"When I fly, I'm a nervous wreck. I have to hold the hand of whoever is sitting next to me. And it doesn't get any easier. The more I travel, the worse it becomes because every time I go to another country, something awful seems to happen."

"I was flying back from Spain a few weeks ago and the plane flew through the only cloud in the sky and was hit by lightning. There were sparks coming out of the engines and for someone like me it was hair-raising."

Suzy explained her two experiences with earthquakes. One was in Acapulco, the other in California. She said: "When the Acapulco earthquake hit, I was staying in a room near the top of a high-rise hotel."

"I happened in the middle of the night. One minute I was asleep in bed, and the next I was lying on the floor and everything was shaking. I grabbed my passport and tape recorder and left the building."

After that, Suzy was worried about going to California. "I was convinced that if I went, the plane would be hit by an earthquake. I arrived in California and the next day there was an earthquake!"

"As it was the second one I had been in, I knew the drill. You are supposed to stand in a doorway or crouch under a table. But that didn't make me feel any safer."

"I began to wonder if everything I worry about comes true. That is why, when I'm on a plane, I have to tell myself, 'Don't think about engines!'"

When Suzy was in a lift in Majorca recently, the cable snapped and the lift fell five floors. She told me: "It's one thing for a lift to get stuck, but a five-floor drop is enough to put you off lifts for life."

"I broke my finger in the fall and didn't



Suzy scuba-diving on a beach.

have enough money with me to pay for the full treatment. I could afford either the plaster cast or the anaesthetic, but not both.

"So I had to have the finger set without a painkiller. I recorded the operation, too. I always record everything that goes wrong."

Suzy's catalogue of disaster seems endless — and a little comic. Last year, in the hope of curing her fear of flying, she sat in on a couple of aircraft disaster simulations. This was so she could see how crews are trained to deal with inflight problems.

Relaxing in her office at the LBC studios, Suzy explained: "The cabin fire was frightening because there was so much smoke. It wasn't a real fire but the

smoke was quite genuine. When the cabin crew went to open the door of the plane so we could escape, it jammed."

"So that didn't really strengthen my faith in their abilities."

"Another time, I was present at a training course with Swissair to see how the pilots would deal with a failed engine."

"The simulator was supposed to miss the runway and then have one engine fail. These simulators are computer-controlled and they are supposed to be able to go wrong. But when I was there, one of the other engines went down, too. I kept expecting the computer to self-destruct. And it just made my flying phobia worse."

No wonder Suzy has earned a reputation in her business for being a Jonah. When pregnant with her 18-month-old son Benjamin, she went on a cruise ship to South America. "I thought, 'I'll be OK, there's a doctor on board,'" she said.

"But we got to the Bay of Biscay and hit a force 12 gale which is hurricane-

strength. I was seasick anyway, and pregnant, and then we hit this storm. It was a 'man the lifeboats' situation."

Suzy lives in Holland Park, West London, with her 37-year-old boyfriend Steve Crozier, who presents an early-morning commuter travel information show on LBC. She worked right through her pregnancy, including the day Benjamin was born, when she even had to stand in for Steve who had broken his leg.

"I was amazed Ben was even born because I had such a busy pregnancy," she told me. "I put on only 8lb and didn't even look like I was expecting a baby."

"I wasn't very popular with the doctors because I did nothing they told me to do, which was to take it easy for nine months. I carried on working and travel-

ling, and lived on nuts and smoked salmon for the whole pregnancy."

"But Ben was a big baby, he weighed 9lb, so I must have done something right."

"I was told by doctors that he was going to be quite small and I thought I would be able to pop into hospital, have the baby and then go back to work the next day."

"But in the end I had to have a Caesarian section because he was too big to be born naturally. I was in a dreadful state afterwards because I had been working the day I had gone into labour and I was in labour for 27 hours."

Even then Suzy, who admits she finds it impossible to sit still for too long, was back at work after seven days.

"She said: 'I had kept it quiet that I was expecting a baby because I knew people at work would have said: 'You can't possibly have a baby in your job, it's impossible.' It had been made clear to me that I couldn't take off more than a week."

"So I didn't tell anyone about it until I was seven months gone, when they might

have been thinking I was getting a bit podgy. But some people at work never knew I was pregnant."

"When I came back some said to me, 'Where have you been?' When I told them I'd had a baby, they didn't believe me. In the end I had to bring Ben in to prove it."

Suzy, an elegant and very composed blonde, went on: "I could take off only seven days after the birth because there are a lot of people out there who would love to have my job. If I had been away any longer, there would have been another person in my place like a shot."

"So I hobbled back after a week. Steve just about managed, even with a broken leg, and my mother came down to help. It was all incredibly difficult."

And now Suzy believes baby Benjamin has taken after her in the energy department. Suzy works out at a gym four times a week, also works for the BBC TV show *Transit* and needs only four hours sleep a night.

She said: "Ben's like me, he's raring to go. I take him every day to a nursery which has 13 other children, because he isn't interested in staying at home all day with a nanny. He doesn't want to sit still and when I get home from work at about 8pm, he's still wide awake."

"When he was very tiny, the only way I could stop him crying was by running up and down with him. Rocking was far too gentle."

Suzy gave up acting after her West End stint because, as she put it: "After being in something as wonderful as *Children of a Lesser God*, I couldn't face a lifetime of playing silly little women in TV sitcoms."

"I never really wanted to be an actress at all. I was incredibly lucky to get the part of the deaf girl, Lydia, especially considering they really wanted a deaf

babies. And they were dying."

"And no-one could give us any advice as to what to do to help them because we were the first in the country to have it. So we had to go through that experience and it was very sad."

Yet the job is not without its humorous moments, usually when a seal tries to escape. Brenda remembers: "We had a grey seal called Beautiful and she was going to be released the next day. And about half past four in the morning there was a loud banging on the door. It was a policeman."

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'Visit Malaysia year' Muslim hospitality welcomes tourists

By Kenneth L. Whiting

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia. (AP) For a country that started taking tourism seriously only three years ago, Malaysia has been a quick study when it comes to learning how to attract foreign visitors.

A million tourists arrived in the first three months of 1990, more than double the same period a year ago. Another two million visitors dropped in from the neighbouring city-state of Singapore.

These may not be a big number compared to world famous vacation spots, but are impressive for a country that almost had to be coaxed into putting out the welcome mat.

"For a long time there was no politics. I will develop the industry," said Sabbaruddin Chik, chief of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Malaysia remained aloof for years while its neighbour sought to woo free-spending foreigners.

Comfortably cushioned by an array of resources, Malaysia is developing a manufacturing sector to complement its exports of natural rubber, palm oil, cocoa, pepper, tropical hardwoods, tin, petroleum and natural gas.

Recognition that tourism is a major international industry finally prompted the government to create a separate Ministry of Tourism and Culture in 1987.

Chauvinists immediately demanded that the names be reversed to give culture precedence over tourism, which to them had overtones of selling the country to foreigners, something that might be tolerated but not particularly liked.

One speaker told a forum in January that the "Visit Malaysia Year" campaign is "making a mockery of Malaysian society" for which the people are not socially prepared.

"But, from the government's point of view, if you wait until everything is ready before you promote tourism, we will never, ever be ready," Sabbaruddin said.

Promoters try to reconcile their profit motive with the conservative habits of a country that has proclaimed Islam as its official religion.

While the culture has no tradition of tourism, it does put a premium on hospitality — both social customs and Islamic law enjoin Malaysians to treat guests better than themselves. There are limits, however.

Without consulting Sabbaruddin, the culture division of his ministry banned a performance by pop singer LaToya Jackson, elder sister of Michael Jackson. She posed semi-nude for Playboy magazine last year, as Kuala Lumpur newspapers duly reported, and an official said her presence was "against the values and norms of the local culture."

Launched with much hoopla in 1988, "Visit Malaysia Year" was designed to attract foreigners and get them to stay longer, foster the arts and culture and encourage locals to see Malaysia first before they venture abroad.

Wira the orangutan, representing an endangered species of ape found only in Borneo and Sumatra, was chosen as the mascot of the campaign. Independence Day on Aug 31 is the anchor for 84 major events, 14 festivals and nine exhibitions.

Malaysia offers distinctive Malay, Chinese and Indian cultures along with the architectural heritage of its Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial eras.

There are unspoiled jungles, spectacular coral reefs, many unpopulated beaches and hill resorts perched above the tropical heat. Gamblers will find a casino at one resort.

Sightseers can watch rubber trees being tapped, monkeys helping harvest coconuts from tall palms and, in Borneo, spend the night as guests in the longhouses of former headhunters.

The food is tasty, travel is expensive and mostly trouble-free, and a wide variety of hotels offer relatively good value. They range from Hiltons and Holiday Inns to the Club Med and more basic beachside huts.

The official goal of "Visit Malaysia Year" is to attract more than 4.2 million tourists and reap earnings of 2.5 billion ringgit (\$926 million) compared to 3.9 million people and two billion ringgit (\$641 million) last year.

Malaysia was fourth in the region in tourism, after Hong Kong with 5.4 million visitors in 1988, Thailand 4.9 million and Singapore 4.8 million.



Planes terrify travel broadcaster Suzy Walton

smoke was quite genuine. When the cabin crew went to open the door of the plane so we could escape, it jammed."

"So that didn't really strengthen my faith in their abilities."

"Another time, I was present at a training course with Swissair to see how the pilots would deal with a failed engine."

"The simulator was supposed to miss the runway and then have one engine fail. These simulators are computer-controlled and they are supposed to be able to go wrong. But when I was there, one of the other engines went down, too. I kept expecting the computer to self-destruct. And it just made my flying phobia worse."

No wonder Suzy has earned a reputation in her business for being a Jonah. When pregnant with her 18-month-old son Benjamin, she went on a cruise ship to South America. "I thought, 'I'll be OK, there's a doctor on board,'" she said.

"But we got to the Bay of Biscay and hit a force 12 gale which is hurricane-

ing, and lived on nuts and smoked salmon for the whole pregnancy."

"But Ben was a big baby, he weighed 9lb, so I must have done something right."

"I was told by doctors that he was going to be quite small and I thought I would be able to pop into hospital, have the baby and then go back to work the next day."

"But in the end I had to have a Caesarian section because he was too big to be born naturally. I was in a dreadful state afterwards because I had been working the day I had gone into labour and I was in labour for 27 hours."

Even then Suzy, who admits she finds it impossible to sit still for too long, was back at work after seven days.

"She said: 'I had kept it quiet that I was expecting a baby because I knew people at work would have said: 'You can't possibly have a baby in your job, it's impossible.' It had been made clear to me that I couldn't take off more than a week."

"So I didn't tell anyone about it until I was seven months gone, when they might

Sea orphans 'mum' gets the seal of approval

By Claire Lockhart

THE tragedy of the virus that made her headline news is now, hopefully, over for good... but seals are still a 20-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week job for Brenda Giles.

The woman who was recently awarded the British Empire Medal for her wildlife work looks back on that time with great sadness for the animals that suffered and died, and also because she and husband Alan had warned of the dangers in advance.

At her back garden sanctuary, Brenda, 52, said: "We had noticed a difference in the seals about four years before the virus. In the early years of our work, perhaps 90 per cent of the babies became separated from their mothers and they needed to be hand reared. And 10 per cent would be sick or injured."

"But over the years that has now changed so that 90 per cent are not only separated from mother but also have sickness. And we feel this is mainly to do with pollution."

"But no-one would listen because we have no veterinary or scientific qualifications, so we are not classed as official and officialdom likes to rub shoulders with officialdom!"

There has been no sign of the virus since the end of 1988 but Brenda can't forget that it cost the lives of about 30 seals brought to her at the time.

Yet she has saved more than 250 seals, stranded by storms in *The Wash* and returned them to the sea since transforming the garden of her home in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, into a seal rescue sanctuary 15 years ago. She runs it entirely on voluntary donations.

She said: "When the seals first arrive — some of them only hours old and still with cord hanging — they do need a mother baby relationship."

"Some have been lying on the marsh for days and are so weak and have lost the will to survive, so we need to give them something to cling on. We have to rekindle the will to survive. They need a mother."

"But just like human children as they become more independent, they grow away from me. So by the time they go back to sea, they're like teenagers and don't

For 15 years, Brenda Giles has rescued the stranded creatures and nursed them back to health, battling the killer virus that claimed so many. Now she has a medal to show for it — but her 'seven day job' hasn't changed much.



Brenda Giles: wildlife work

want to be tied to mum's apron strings anymore.

When the time comes to release the creatures back into the sea, Brenda admits to fixed feelings. "Since the virus, there haven't been so many seals. But before the virus I've had as many as 30 babies to hand rear. And I used to spend 20 hours a day pushing sprats down little throats while my husband did the cleaning. When you work 20 hours a day for months on end, you get tired and exhausted. You can get used to it and you can keep it up while you have to, but you do get very tired."

"So when they go back to the sea, you're thankful and relieved and sorry to see them to go. On the other hand, you're extremely

happy for them because you've seen them come in as weak and helpless and you see them going back really strong and fit."

"When they get in the sea, they say: 'Gosh! Look at the size of this pool — there's no end to it.' They're full of excitement so that's a great reward."

She recalls one seal that seemed afraid of the sea. "Her name was Fifi. We released her at the beginning of November and she didn't want to go. She kept coming back again. And my husband waded out in his clothes up to his armpits with her. And she went quite happily with him."

"But as she turned around to try and struggle back, she was already on the shore behind me with her head peeping through my legs."

"We took her home and she wasn't pleased for the next week because she realised she should have been in the sea. And the next time we took her, she didn't wait, off she went."

"We also had five seals who missed the tide because they played too long. We couldn't leave them sitting on the shore, so we bought them home. But they didn't want us to pick them up. They had started reverting to the wild immediately we got there. They knew that was their place."

Only once in 15 years has Brenda thought of giving up. "That was when we had the virus. It was so upsetting and I just sat down and had a good cry and said to my husband 'Well this is it. This is the finish.'"

"He didn't say anything. He let me have a good cry and then he said 'Now wasn't that a negative way of thinking? Isn't this just when the seals need you more than ever?'"

Breaking into a smile, Brenda goes on: "He was quite right! I think the cry was a good thing because it helped to get it all out of my system. I was nursing those little

babies. And they were dying."

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Brenda believes the seals need a mother-baby relationship.

Second leg ends in 0-0 draw

Juventus win Uefa Cup



Zoff holds aloft the Uefa Cup. (Reuter wirephoto)

AVELLINO, Italy, May 18, (Reuter): Juventus held fellow-Italians Fiorentina to a 0-0 draw in the second leg of the Uefa Cup soccer final on Wednesday to win 3-1 on aggregate despite being reduced to 10 men in a very physical match.

Juventus, who also won the Italian Cup this season after five years without a trophy, faced a fierce second half onslaught from their compatriots after Pasquale Bruno, who was booked in the first half, was sent off in the 58th minute.

Fiorentina, forced to play their home leg in the town of Avellino near Naples because of crowd trouble in the semifinal, could find no way to unlock the Juventus defence.

Brazilian international Dunga, Alberto Di Chiara and Roberto Baggio — who may have played his last game for Fiorentina before his expected move to Juventus — all brought brilliant saves from Juventus and Italy reserve keeper Stefano Tacconi.

The nearest they came to scoring was four minutes from time when Czechoslovak international Lubos Kubik hit a post.

In the first half Fiorentina, who have not scored more than one goal in a Uefa tie this season, struggled to create chances but after Bruno's departure they dominated a match in which four other players were booked — three of them from Fiorentina.

Juventus, who won the Uefa

Cup in 1977 but whose last trophy was the European Cup in 1985, had several scoring chances in the first half with star striker Salvatore Schillaci shooting narrowly wide twice in the space of four minutes.

Both sides had chances in the opening stages of the match, with Roberto Gallia, who scored for Juventus in the first leg, heading just wide from a free kick in the second minute.

A minute later Baggio broke free in the box but shot wide. He had another chance to give Fiorentina the early goal they were desperately looking for in the 13th minute.

From Celeste pin's cross, Di Chiara back-heeled to put Baggio in space but he shot narrowly wide once more.

In the second half, Tacconi was called into action after eight minutes when he could only parry a long range shot from Kubik.

A minute later Fiorentina appealed for a penalty when Giancarlo Marocchi appeared to shove Renato Buso to the ground but West German referee Aaron Schmidhuber waved the angry players away.

Fiorentina also had an appeal for a penalty turned down in the first half, when Buso was checked.

It was Buso who was brought down when Bruno received the red card.

Fiorentina, sensing a chance

to get the two goals needed to win their first European Trophy since the Cup Winners' Cup in 1961, went on the attack, forcing four corners in seven minutes.

But Juventus held on in determined fashion to earn manager Dino Zoff two trophies in just his second year charge. However, his contract is to end after this match because Juventus made a deal to hire Bologna coach Luigi Malsarei two years ago.

Juventus' victory gave Italy their second European trophy, following Sampdoria's triumph in the Cup Winners' Cup last week. AC Milan have an opportunity to make it a clean sweep when they contest the European cup next week.

There were bookings for Antonio Dell'oglio, Marco Nappi and Buso of Fiorentina and Sergei Aleinikov for Juventus. Nappi was also booked in the first leg.

Zoff said: "It was great, wonderful and the merit is theirs. They battled even though they were down to 10, one can't want better than that."

"It compensates a lot for my regret at leaving Juventus. Leaving at such a time, that's destiny — it's cruel."

Schillaci said: "We didn't expect this much at the beginning of the championship, absolutely not. We're very satisfied, we are happy, we've achieved the maximum."

Christie aims to become world No. 1

LONDON, May 18, (Reuter): Briton Linford Christie, with three gold medals already to his credit this year, aims to end 1990 as the world's number one sprinter.

The Olympic silver medallist started the decade in style by winning the Commonwealth 100 metres title in a wind-assisted 9.93 seconds and anchoring the spring relay team to victory.

Then in March he won the European indoor 60 metres title before returning to his native Jamaica for 10 weeks.

Christie turned 30 last month and is aware that he does not have many seasons left at the top.

Accordingly, he will use the European section of the 1990 Grand Prix circuit, which starts in Sao Paulo, Brazil, this Sunday to stake his claim as the world's top sprinter.

"I'll be racing a lot this season," Christie says. "Because if there are sprinters trying to avoid me, I'll go and find them."

There are the Americans like Leroy Burrell, Mark Witherspoon and Carl Lewis. Then there's Ray Stewart of Jamaica and Chidi Enoch of Nigeria.

"It's a wide field. But I'm not going to let it get like the top distance runners who keep dodging each other. If the other sprinters try to do that, I'll go looking for them."

Christie defends his European 100 metres title in Split, Yugoslavia, this year but his most competitive race is likely to come in the prestigious Zurich meeting on August 15.

Lewis, the Olympic champion, will have a low-key season although there is still a possibility he could take part in a special race against Ben Johnson when the Canadian's two-year suspension for doping ends in September.

The American is now the world record holder after Johnson was stripped of the 9.83 second mark he set in the 1987 Rome world championships.

"I plan to compete in only seven to nine meets," Lewis said. One of those is expected to be the Goodwill Games in Seattle in July.



Indy-500 participant Michael Andretti signs autographs for fans. (Reuter wirephoto)

Time running out for Indy hopefuls

INDIANAPOLIS, May 18, (UPI): Wind gusts up to 41 mph (65 kph) kept practice speeds low for the Indianapolis 500 yesterday after high-speed laps were rained out the previous two days, and time is running out for 28 drivers looking to qualify for the May 27 race.

Clear skies were predicted for today's final full day of practice but rain is likely tomorrow with a chance of showers Sunday, according to the latest National Weather Service forecast.

"It's easy to find yourself running out of time at this place," said Dominic Dobson, seventh-fastest among qualified drivers. "People say you have a whole month here. But you really only have two or three days. Being qualified, we have the advantage of more time and more options with testing."

Emerson Fittipaldi owns the provisional pole after leading 15

qualifiers in a rain-shortened session last Sunday. Thirteen others have a chance to qualify as first-session drivers, but that will not fill the 33-car field.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway officials reserve the right to fill the lineup in any method, which could include simply selecting the cars that would fill the vacancies. But in the past, other cars have been given one chance each at vacant spots, with already qualified cars unable to be bumped.

Billy Vukovich III, who crashed his main car May 7, is trying to find competitive speed in an unfamiliar 1988 Lola-Buick.

"This is not a lot of fun," Vukovich said. "You've just got to hope for the best. Come Saturday or Sunday, we've got to run with the conditions whatever they are. We know we will have the chance. We just to be ready when it comes. If it's not until Monday, we'll be ready."

Bulls thrash 76ers

CHICAGO, May 18, (Reuter): The Chicago Bulls advanced to an Eastern Conference finals rematch against the defending National Basketball Association champion Detroit Pistons with a 117-99 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday.

Michael Jordan scored 37 points and Chicago's tough defensive play held Philadelphia to just 36 second-half points to give the Bulls a 4-1 victory in the best-of-seven series.

Scottie Pippen added 29 points for Chicago, while Ron Anderson was high scorer for the 76ers with 20. Philadelphia's all-star forward Charles Barkley was held to 17 points.

Philadelphia held a 63-62 halftime lead, but the Bulls broke open the game by outscoring the Sixers 27-18 in the third quarter.

Franklin hits first ton of New Zealand tour

TAUNTON, England, May 18, (Reuter): Trevor Franklin scored the first century of New Zealand's cricket tour of England yesterday, four years after his career was almost wrecked by a freak accident.

Opener Franklin missed a complete season because of a broken left leg. It was shattered when he was hit by a motorised baggage trolley at Gatwick airport as the New Zealanders prepared to fly home following their 1986 visit.

Doctors feared he would never play again. But the only sign of the injury was a slight limp while he frustrated Somerset's bowlers for four hours.

Franklin shared in a second wicket partnership of 113 with nightwatchman Adam Parore, who made 43, and struck 13 boundaries before he fell leg before to spinner Ian Swallow for 103.

New Zealand, resuming at 22 for one, were happy to build steadily in reply to Somerset's 343 for six declared until Martin Crowe raised the tempo with a nine-boundary unbeaten 55.

Crowe, captain against his old county, added 79 with Andrew Jones and declared at tea at 278 for three, 65 behind. Jones re-

ched 57 not out.

South African runs-machine Jimmy Cook made an unbeaten 51 as Somerset totalled 113 for three by the close of the second day of the three-day game.

Scoreboard
SOMERSET first innings 343 for six declared (C. Tavaré 156, R. Harden 104, M. Snedden four for 79).

NEW ZEALAND first innings (overnight 22 for one)
T. Franklin lbw b Swallow 103
J. Crowe c and b Jones 0
A. Parore c Jones b Swallow 43
A. Jones not out 57
M. Crowe not out 55
Extras (b-9 lb-s-w-1 nb-1) 20
Total (for three wickets, declared) 278
Fall of wicket: 1-92-122-3-201

Did not bat: M. Greatbatch, K. Rutherford, S. Thomson, M. Priest, M. Snedden, J. Milne
Bowling: Jones 9-2-20-1, Rose 16-4-33-0, Hayhurst 17-3-55-0, Hallett 14-2-52-0, Swallow 19-5-52-2, Roebuck 11-3-26-0, Harden 3-0-22-0.

SOMERSET second innings
J. Cook not out 51
P. Roebuck lbw b Snedden 8
J. Hardy c Parore b Milne 5
A. Hayhurst run out 2
N. Burns not out 43
Extras (b-4 nb-2) 8
Total (for three wickets) 113
Fall of wickets: 1-232-34-3-48

Bowling (to date): Milne 8-1-25-1, Snedden 8-2-22-1, Rutherford 4-1-25-0, Priest 8-3-19-0, Jones 4-0-18-0.

Spurs outplay Trail Blazers

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, May 18, (AP): The San Antonio Spurs forced a seventh game in their intense Western Conference semifinals against Portland with a 112-97 victory last night as Willie Anderson, averaging only 15 points against the Trail Blazers, scored a playoff career-high 30 points.

The deciding game of the best-of-7 series will be tomorrow afternoon in Portland. The home team has won each of the six games in the series and the winner goes on to face the Phoenix Suns in the Conference finals.

Portland's Clyde Drexler was ejected from the game by referee Mike Mathis with 3:01 to play in the third period for hitting Anderson under the chin with an elbow.

Baseball results

NEW YORK, May 18, (Reuter): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

American League
Milwaukee 6 California 3
Seattle 14 Toronto 6
Minnesota 4 N.Y. Yankees 1
Chicago 7 Baltimore 3
Detroit 7 Texas Rangers 5

National League
St. Louis 3 Cincinnati 0
Atlanta 6 Pittsburgh 1
Houston 5 Chicago Cubs 4

Ambrose apologises over 'beamers'

LONDON, May 18, (Reuter): West Indies pace bowler Curtly Ambrose has apologised to Warwickshire over the controversial "beamers" incident on Wednesday in the English county match with Northamptonshire.

Ambrose bowled three beamers, fast, head-high, full-tosses, at Dermot Reeve on his way to a career-best 202.

In a statement issued yesterday, Northants say that Ambrose has "consistently and adamantly maintained that the bowling of the three deliveries was not in any sense intentional or deliberate."

But the player has been "warned most strongly that the club will not tolerate any repetition."

The Northants staff has been told that anyone bowling a deliberate beamer faces severe punishment, including suspension and a heavy fine.

The apology was tendered to Reeve and Warwickshire captain Andy Lloyd in the presence of Northants captain Allan Lamb and was accepted.

Northants have refused to comment on another incident involving Greg Thomas, who allegedly made remarks criticising a caught-behind decision in



Neil Lenham

Reeve's favour.

Four English county cricket championship matches produced results one day ahead of their scheduled four days yesterday.

Hampshire collected 24 points from their game at Southampton after thrashing injury-hit Sussex by an innings and 157 runs.

Neil Lenham hit a career-best 121, including 14 fours, from 177 balls in 188 minutes as the visitors reached 266 in a vain attempt to reach 424 to make Hampshire bat again.

In the first innings they lost

David Smith, who retired hurt with a broken thumb.

Results
At Bristol: Glamorgan beat Gloucestershire by 145 runs. Glamorgan 291 in 100.4 overs and 170 (N. Cowley 61, C. Walsh five for 48). Gloucestershire 171 in 61.3 overs and 145 (K. Curran 44 = M. Frost five for 40). Glamorgan 23 points, Gloucestershire four.

At Lord's: Middlesex beat Kent by eight wickets. Kent 196 in 77.3 overs and 265 (N. Taylor 91, C. Cowdrey 44; M. Gatting four for two). Middlesex 272 in 104 overs and 193 for two (M. Gatting 87 not out). Middlesex 23 points, Kent four.

At Southampton: Hampshire beat Sussex by an innings and 157 runs. Sussex 152 in 59.2 overs and 291 (N. Lenham 121). Hampshire 600 for eight declared in 139.3 overs. Hampshire 24 points, Sussex two.

At Leicester: Nottinghamshire beat Leicestershire by five wickets. Leicestershire 359 in 122.5 overs and 158 (L. Potter 70, F. Stephenson four for 33). Nottinghamshire 361 in 75 overs and 157 for five (D. Martindale 43). Nottinghamshire 22 points, Leicestershire seven.

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United capture 7th FA Cup

Martin's goal brings down Palace



Martin holds aloft the FA Cup. (Reuter wirephoto)

LONDON, May 18, (Reuter): Fullback Lee Martin gave Manchester United their seventh FA Cup victory at Wembley yesterday with the only goal of an often scrappy final replay against underdogs Crystal Palace.

It was Martin's first goal of the season and before the game he had been rated 50-1 against scoring.

The England under-21 international's 60th minute strike was a fine effort but no more than United deserved against their London opponents.

Ironically, local boy Martin cost nothing in a team assembled for £13 million (\$20 million). The replay, following Saturday's 3-3 draw, was the first in the final since 1983 when United beat Brighton 4-0.

United manager Alex Ferguson, knowing the importance of victory after a disappointing League season that casts doubts on his future at Old Trafford, dropped Scotland international goalkeeper Jim Leighton for the replay.

Although not a total surprise, the move was amply rewarded. Instead of Leighton, who bore the brunt of the blame for some of Palace's goals on Saturday, Ferguson opted for Les Sealey, on loan from Luton.

The experienced 32-year-old was almost unable to play because his loan period expired last weekend. But United won a special extension and Sealey obliged with an excellent performance.

United's win made former Aberdeen boss Ferguson the first British manager since World War II to win both the Scottish and English FA Cups.

Palace manager Steve Coppell, who himself had a glorious Cup career with United, was a spectator when Manchester beat Brighton in 1983.

Coppell was lucky that yesterday's scoreline was not heavier on Palace. After a first half cluttered with fouls, mostly Palace-inspired, United finally came alive in the second 45 minutes.

Martin stormed into the area and blasted the winner into the top of the net past despairing goalkeeper Nigel Martyn.

Four minutes later, Coppell brought on substitute Ian Wright, the heroic scorer of two goals on Saturday.

But the closest Palace could get was in the 70th minute when Andy Gray stabbed at a loose ball in a goalmouth scramble only to see Sealey bundle it a clear at full stretch.

Australians ban flags, emblems from grounds

SYDNEY, Australia, May 18, (AP): Fans are to be banned from waving national flags and emblems at Australian soccer matches following outbreaks of violence between spectators of different ethnic backgrounds.

The measures, proposed by the New South Wales Soccer Federation, will come into force in two weeks time.

New South Wales Soccer Federation manager Ian Holmes said his club backed any move to tighten security at games.

Sparked
New South Wales Sports Minister Bob Rowland Smith said yesterday he backed the move, which has sparked an angry reaction from some clubs. The clubs claimed the measures were racist and undemocratic.

"The restrictions will prevent announcements at stadiums from being made in languages other than English, and bar the presence of politically motivated flags, slogans, banners and photos of sports grounds. Flares, fireworks and loud hailer also will be barred.

Slaven named in Irish Cup squad

DUBLIN, May 18, (Reuter): Middlesbrough and Ireland striker Bernie Slaven has been handed a ticket to the World Cup finals with only two and a half hours international experience.

Slaven, who made his international debut two months ago and has since only come on as a substitute, was one of 22 players in the Republic of Ireland squad named by manager Jack Charlton yesterday.

A late arrival on the soccer scene, Slaven, 29, used to be a gardener in his native Scotland. He has been Middlesbrough's top scorer for the last four years, with an impressive 32 goals this season. Even so the club was nearly relegated to Division Three.

Charlton's announcement also brought good news for Millwall midfielder Gary Waddock, who has been battling against injury.

Waddock, 28, has played for Ireland only

once in the past five years — in last month's triumph over the Soviet Union — but appears to have proved that he has overcome the knee problem that threatened to end his playing days.

Although there were no big surprises in the squad, there was relief for long-serving Frank Stapleton, who at one time looked in danger of missing out.

The 33-year-old Blackburn striker, who captained Ireland in the 1988 European championship finals, will have the chance to bring his international career to a more satisfactory end.

Charlton will not officially be giving the names to FIFA until the May 29 deadline, in case of injuries. He still wants to check on the fitness of Liverpool's Ronnie Whelan, whose broken

right foot will stay in plaster until Tuesday. Austria announced their 22-man squad for the World Soccer Cup finals in Italy yesterday, with the absence of goalkeeper Franz Wohlfahrt the only surprise.

Team manager Josef Hickersberger picked Otto Konrad to join Michael Kossel and Klaus Lindeberger in goal instead of Wohlfahrt, whose team Admira Wacker were beaten 3-1 by Sturm Graz in their final match of the season on Tuesday.

The squad included top marksman this season, Toni Polster, of Spanish club FC Sevilla, and Gerhard Rodax, Austria's top scorer with 35 goals, lead the attack.

The only question mark is over experienced forward Christian Kegeles, who is recovering from a torn muscle but is expected to be fit in time.

Argentina will reach final: Menem

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 18, (AP): President Carlos Menem, a passionate soccer fan, yesterday predicted that defending champion Argentina "will be among the finalists" in the World Cup that starts June 8 in Italy.

"Of course, I think that Italy, being the home team, is another of the candidates," Menem said during a meeting with foreign journalists.

"Also, you have to watch Yugoslavia, Germany, England, Brazil and Holland," he added. "All of

them are countries that should be in the finals." Italy has been listed as the odd-on favorite to win the coveted trophy at 5-2. Brazil and the Netherlands are listed at 9-2, West Germany 6-1 and Argentina 8-1.

Asked his opinion of the Argentine offense, Menem jokingly accused newsmen of attempting to provoke dispute between himself and Carlos Bilardo, coach of the national team, which won the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Heysel trial

BRUSSELS, Belgium, May 18, (AP): A prosecutor yesterday called for harsher sentences for British soccer fans convicted for the 1985 Heysel soccer stadium riots that killed 39 people.

During the appeal trial, prosecutor Oscar Vandemeulebroeck asked for a "substantial" increase of the sentences imposed on 10 of 14 people in the first trial in April last year.

English playoff results

LONDON, May 18, (Reuter): Results of English League promotion playoff semifinals, second leg soccer matches on Wednesday:

Division Two: Newcastle 0; Sunderland 2. (Sunderland won 3-0 on aggregate.)
Sunderland 2; Blackburn 1. (Sunderland won 4-2 on aggregate.)

Division Three: Notts County 2; Bolton 0. (Notts County won 3-1 on aggregate.)
Tranmere 2; Bury 0. (Tranmere won 2-0 on aggregate.)

Division Four: Stockport 0; Chesterfield 2. (Chesterfield won 6-0 on aggregate.)
Maidstone 0; Cambridge 2. (Cambridge won 3-1 on aggregate.)

The playoffs will be played at Wembley on the following dates: Saturday, May 26 — Division Four Cambridge v Chesterfield Sunday, May 27 — Division Three Notts County v Tranmere Monday, May 28 — Division Two Sunderland v Swindon

Scotland, Soviet Union beaten

LONDON, May 18, (Reuter): World Cup soccer finalists Scotland and the Soviet Union received a severe jolt on Wednesday when they were beaten by unfancied opposition less than a month ahead of the final tournament in Italy.

Egypt gave themselves an enormous morale boost before they make their first appearance in the world Cup finals in over 50 years by defeating the Scots 3-1 in Aberdeen.

The Soviet Union, runners-up in the 1988 European championship, were beaten 3-2 by Israel in Tel Aviv where the winning goal was struck by 19-year-old Tal Ben-Haim midway through the second half.

Ireland, who beat the Soviet Union 1-0 in Dublin three weeks ago, narrowly escaped defeat to their capital against Finland, a team — like Israel — which failed to reach the World Cup finals.

Kevin Sheedy snatched a 1-1 draw for Ireland five minutes from the final whistle — and preserved an unbeaten four-year home record — after substitute Vesa Tauriainen had given Finland a 76th-minute lead.

Egypt warmed up in style for their Group F first round encounters in Italy with the Netherlands, Ireland and England, who savoured a 1-0 victory over Denmark at Wembley on Tuesday to take their unbeaten run to 17 matches.

Canal Abdel-Hamid and Hossam Hassan put them 2-0 in front inside 28 minutes and although Ally McCoist pulled one back for the Scots in the 73rd minute, Ismail Yusuf sealed Egypt's victory with the final goal 10 minutes later.

Israel, welcoming a Soviet international soccer team to their soil for the first time since 1956, twice took the lead in the first half.

strikes from Dynamo Kiev midfielders Gennadi Litovchenko and Alexei Mikhailchenko.

Batim, however, scored the decisive goal in the 67th minute to mollify Israeli fans who had held up the start of the match for 12 minutes by throwing cans and fruit on the pitch in protest against the non-appearance of three foreign-based players, including Ronnie Rosenthal of English champions Liverpool.

Soviet coach Valery Lobanovsky attributed defeat to serious defensive mistakes and promised a completely different team in the World Cup where his men take on holders Argentina, Romania and Cameroon in Group B.

Egypt's Hassan was stretched off after scoring the second goal against Scotland when he was caught in their face by goalkeeper Bryan



Robson (right) leaps to head the ball against Mark Bright. (Reuter wirephoto)



United's Danny Wallace (right) dribbles past Palace's John Pemberton. (Reuter wirephoto)

Italy to get names of hooligans

LONDON, May 18, (Reuter): Britain is sending the names of a rout 100 convicted soccer hooligans to Italy hoping authorities there will ban them from attending the World Cup, a government minister said yesterday.

"This move is designed to strengthen the arrangements already in place for World Cup security, including effective police liaison," Home Secretary David Waddington said in a statement.

Waddington said the names, gleaned from police files, were being sent to Italy with his recommendation they be banned from entering the country.

A home office spokesman said it was impossible to tell how many "ring-leaders" were among approximately 100 hooligans on the list.

Under a new British law, Britons convicted of soccer hooliganism at home or abroad can be banned for up to two years from travelling to matches overseas. The law cannot be used against those convicted before it went into effect last month.

Searched
Soccer fans will be searched, fireworks and alcohol banned and only banners strictly connected to football will be allowed into Italy's world Cup stadiums next month, organisers said on Wednesday.

The Italian World Cup organising committee said it had agreed a series of measures with security officials aimed at preventing violence inside stadiums during the month-long competition.

A publicity campaign to inform foreign soccer supporters about the measures is being planned, the committee said.

Stadiums in the 12 cities hosting the tournament will be patrolled by police from 24 hours before the start of matches.

US team gets Bush message

WASHINGTON, May 18, (AP): US President George Bush sent a good luck message to the US World Cup soccer team.

Bush was not able to attend a reception yesterday in the team's honour in New York.

"I am delighted to join the many proud Americans gathered in New York in extending best wishes to the coaches and members of the United States national soccer team as you depart for Italy to compete in the World Cup," Bush said in a telegram.

"In qualifying for this prestigious tournament, you demonstrated not only your individual athletic skills but also a winning team spirit. Our country is honoured to have a team of your caliber competing against the world's best players."

"Welcome the opportunity for the United States to host the 1994 games and, as the first US team to compete in this tournament in 40 years, you are helping in the 1990 games to kick off America's increasing visibility in one of the world's most popular sports."

"You already have won a place of honour in the hearts of America's sports fans. Best of luck this summer — we're behind you all the way."

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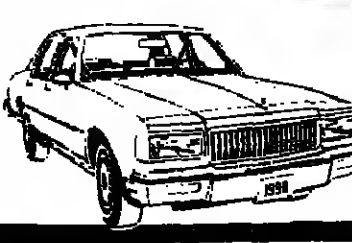
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Goals by Uri Malmilian and Nir Levin were cancelled out by first half

Unbridled tipped to beat Summer Squall in Preakness Stakes

BALTIMORE, Maryland, May 18, (Reuters): Unbridled's surprise Kentucky Derby victory has made him favourite for tomorrow's Preakness Stakes, second leg of the triple crown, but doubts remain over the colt's true ability.

Unbridled was made 7-5 favourite

for the 115th Preakness, while Summer Squall, who had been favoured to win the Kentucky Derby, was a 2-1 bet to win the 9-1/2 furlong (two-km) test for three-year-olds at Pimlico race course.

Unbridled won the May 5 derby

when jockey Craig Perret brilliantly threaded him through the 15-horse field to a 3-1/2 length victory over Summer Squall, who ran out of stamina down the Churchill Downs stretch.

Since he took the 116th derby as a

10-1 shot two weeks ago, commentators have praised Unbridled's "perfect" run.

But they point to Mister Frisky's disappointing eighth-place finish — 19-1/4 lengths off the pace — as an aberration and say tomorrow's

smaller field will help the colt who had posted 16 wins in as many starts prior to the derby.

Mister Frisky, who won most of his races in Puerto Rico, is a grandson of Damascus, 1967 winner of the Preakness and Belmont Stakes. The chest-

nut colt is trained by Cuban native Laz Barrera, who trained Affirmed, the last horse to win the triple crown in 1978.

Unbridled's trainer, Carl Nafzger, insists his horse has "all the attributes to be a triple crown winner."

"If the seams open and we get the same race we got in the derby, they had better not be looking around because he might be by them," he warned.

Cot Campbell, managing partner of the 28-member syndicate that owns Summer Squall, was satisfied with his horse's seventh post position.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Sahel stun Al Kuwait to reach Cup final

KUWAIT Soccer League's Second Division Club Al Sahel Club sprang the biggest surprise of the Amir's Cup competition by ousting favourites Al Kuwait in a penalty shootout on Wednesday. Both teams ended the two-leg matches by drawing 1-1. An extra time failed to separate the two teams.

In the penalty shootout, Al Sahel came out victorious 4-3. Al Sahel sailed through the first round by overcoming another First Division team Al Nasr in both the matches. The Amir's Cup competition is being played on a two-leg system for the first time in its 29-year history.

Three other teams qualified for the semifinal stage which would start today. Al Arabi last season's runner-up, qualified after overcoming a tough challenge from Second Division Kheitan.

Embarrassed

Al Arabi managed to score one goal only in the first minute of the time added for stoppages and was embarrassed when it drew the second match 1-1. They will meet Al Sahel in today's first semifinal match.

If they display the same game as they did against Kheitan, Al Arabi may simply find themselves out of the Amir's Cup. Al Sahel has proven they are not the underdogs and are ready to spring yet another surprise. The second-leg match will be played on Tuesday.

The other semifinal is promising to be certainly more exciting than the first. Kasma, who passed through two difficult challenges by ousting Jahra, the League champions, and Salmiya, will play Qadisiya. Kasma displayed good form in defeating Jahra 1-0 and 2-1 in their matches and in beating Salmiya 2-1 and drawing the second match 1-1.

Holders Qadisiya, however, have regained the form that eluded them during the third round of the League, when they lost 5 of their 7 matches. In their second round match, Qadisiya thrashed Second Division Al Shahab 3-1 and 6-0. The second match was played late Thursday.

Qadisiya finished their first half 1-0 and scored five goals in the second after missing at least a similar number of opportunities. Their main striker Muayyad Al Haddad was in top form and scored a hat-trick.

If they maintain this form against Kasma on Sunday and Wednesday, Qadisiya may not find it difficult to sail through to the final and even win the Cup for the second consecutive time.

In another development, Qadisiya's Brazilian coach, Philip Louis yesterday renewed his contract with Qadisiya for another season. It was reported that he and the club overcame some financial obstacles before renewing the contract.

Graf outplays Meskhi

Wilander splits with coach

WEST BERLIN, May 18, (Agencies): World number one Steffi Graf of West Germany reached the semifinals of the \$500,000 West Berlin Women's Tennis Tournament today after a 6-4 6-1 victory over Leila Meskhi of Soviet Union.

Graf, the top seed, fought off a

tough challenge from the 13th seeded Soviet player in the first set. The second set was, however, smooth sailing for the West German, who played her quarterfinal match on Wednesday.

Graf had to shake off the effects of an off day and only seemed to find her rhythm at the end of the

first set. Graf had no problems in the second set as her opponent seemed to tire out after putting in everything she had in the first set.

Joining Graf in the semifinals were 8th seeded Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union and Sandra Cecchini of Italy.

Zvereva had to fight back after losing the first set to Australia's Judith Wiesner to win 6-7 6-0 6-4 while Cecchini upset 10th seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France 7-6 6-3.

Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini crashed out of the West Berlin tournament yesterday in a third-round match delayed by persistent rain.

Sabatini, seeded number three in the competition, lost 4-6 6-3 4-6 to Cecchini.

American fourth seed Mary Joe Fernandez also fell, forced to retire hurt after just one game of her third-round clash with Wiesner.

Fernandez injured her back in her last serve of the first game and was unable to sit down during the break, giving Wiesner an easy — but unwelcome — passage into the last eight.

Former world number one Mats Wilander, preparing a

return to the tennis circuit, said yesterday that he had coach Jonte Sjogren were going their separate ways after 10 years of co-operation.

"We part as the best of friends and I don't expect to find a better trainer. But from an inspirational point of view it might be good to have a change," Wilander told the Swedish news agency TT.

Sjogren, who is also non-playing captain of Sweden's Davis Cup team, said: "We've been travelling around the world since 1980. That's a very long time. We both agree that a new trainer could perhaps inspire Mats now that he is making a comeback."

Wilander, 25, announced a break from tennis after a first-round exit from the Indian Wells tournament in California in early March and said he would not return "until I feel like playing again — whether it takes a couple of weeks or months."

His decision was also influenced by the health of his father, who is seriously ill with cancer. Wilander, who is married and based in New York, has been spending a lot of time during the break with his parents in the Swedish town of Vaxjo.



Graf hits a forehand return. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sanchez reaches semifinals

ROME, May 18, (AP): Spain's Emilio Sanchez today became the first player to reach the semifinals at the Italian Open, beating Guillermo Perez-Roldan 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Sanchez, who has already won two titles this year, has won 13 of his 17 clay court matches this year. The fourth-seeded Sanchez controlled the one hour and 46 minute match against the 12th-seeded Argentine, hitting deep, consistent groundstrokes and hustling on the baseline.

The Spaniard, who lost to Ivan Lendl in the finals of the 1986 Italian Open, also won important points on volleys and overheads.

"Perez-Roldan is always dangerous, especially with his forehand," said Sanchez. "I tried to keep him from getting into a groove by attacking his backhand and rushing net as much as I could."

The absence of the world's top four players, and

the slow red clay of the Foro Italico, has altered players' approach.

"There's certainly more pressure on us," said Sanchez, No. 8 in the world. "Because now we feel obligated to do well. But there is also more desire. Because each of us believes that he can win. On clay, we are all equal."

Sanchez believes that the absence of Ivan Lendl, Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker and Andre Agassi have not substantially altered the Rome tournament.

"The top four players didn't desert this tournament because it's not important," he said. "They deserted it because it's hard to play here. And because it's hard to play six matches in seven days, especially so close to the French Open. Besides, if you look back over the past few months, you'll see those same top players have lost consistently on clay."

England recall Gower

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): David Gower has been recalled to the England cricket team eight months after he was dropped as captain and then left out of the winter tour to the West Indies.

Selectors named the 33-year-old batsman today in a 13-man squad for next week's two one-day internationals against New Zealand at Headingley on Wednesday and the Oval on Friday.

Gower, who moved to Hampshire this season after 15 seasons with Leicestershire, scored a fine century against Sussex this week watched by England manager Micky Stewart.

With 3,030 runs from 105 matches, he is England's third highest run scorer in one-day internationals behind Allan Lamb on 3,224 and captain Graham Gooch with 3,086.

Essex all-rounder Derek Pringle also wins back a one-day place and Neil Fairbrother has been put on standby for opener Wayne Larkins, who has to prove his fitness on Monday after fracturing a finger last week.

Squad: Graham Gooch (captain), Phillip De Freitas, Angus Fraser, David Gower, Eddie Hemmings, Allan Lamb, Wayne Larkins, Chris Lewis, Derek Pringle, Jack Russell, Gladstone Small, Robin Smith, Alec Stewart.

Becker to play in world tournament

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 18, (Reuters): Wimbledon champion Boris Becker looks to the cosy club atmosphere of next week's World Team Cup for inspiration on clay before heading for the glamour of the French Open tennis championships.

The eight-team event at Dusseldorf's compact Rothenburg provides a stark contrast to the intensity and show of the Paris Grand Slam event which starts on May 28.

With no ATP Tour points at stake, the players can relax and enjoy the small-time ambience of the West German club.

"Last year there were great games, a unique atmosphere, and superb weather," said Becker, the world number three.

Games doves being shot by hunters

BEDJING, May 18, (UPI): Hundreds of doves being trained for ceremonial peace flights over the forthcoming Asian Games were shot from the skies by hunters eager to sell them at market, the official China Daily reported yesterday.

More than 200 of the specially trained carrier pigeons were discovered dead recently in just one town outside the capital, the China Daily reported.

The birds were identified by the Asian Games ring attached to their legs, the newspaper said. Trainers have been working with more than 60,000 carrier pigeons that will fly over a Beijing stadium in August ceremonies opening China's first Asian Games. The birds also are being trained for the Games' homing pigeon competition.

The bird handlers became concerned when hundreds of pigeons failed to complete a 185-mile training flight from the Hebei province capital of Shijiazhuang.

"Many of our bombers went out for training were found severely wounded on arrival in Beijing and many others simply disappeared," Beijing Homing Pigeon Association head Zhou Guangda was quoted as saying.

An investigation found that more than 100 hunters were stalking out the birds' routes and shooting them out of the sky with small hunting rifles, the newspaper said.



Sulayem powers his Winston Toyota to victory.

Bin Sulayem wins

AMMAN: Mohammed Bin Sulayem won the Jordan International Rally last night in the style which has allowed him to dominate the Fisa Middle East Championship for the last four years.

After a great surge across the desert plains south of Amman in his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4, the UAE star roared back to the capital to celebrate an emphatic victory by more than four minutes from compatriot Suhail Khalifa.

Saudi Arabia's Mamdouh Khayal, accompanied by Qatar's Abbas Al Mosaawi, finished third in a Mitsubishi Pajero.

It was Sulayem's third successive win in Jordan and his fourth overall in a career which has now brought him 18 international triumphs.

More significantly, it extended his lead in this year's championship and served as a powerful warning to Khalifa and his other leading challengers that he has no intention of weakening his grip on the Middle East title.

"Winning the opening round of the championship in Qatar was the perfect start to the season for me and this result puts me in a very good position," said Sulayem after accepting the applause with co-driver Ronan Morgan at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Throughout the first leg, Sulayem had waited patiently while Khalifa took a fragile 21-second advantage in his Mitsubishi.

shi Galant VR4.

With the rest of the field already scattered well adrift, Sulayem made his decisive move on the first two of yesterday's 13 special stages, piling on the pressure in his Winston Toyota and moving spectacularly into the lead.

Despite three punctures and damage to his car's rear suspension, he reached the ancient town of Petra yesterday afternoon leading by more than two minutes from Khalifa who had also lost time with a puncture.

"Mohammed is very fast," said Khalifa. "He is much quicker on the long stages. I can't keep up with him."

As Sulayem extended his lead over the remaining seven stages, Khayal moved into third place ahead of Lebanon's Michel Saleh. Among the casualties were Oman's Tony Georgiou who ran out of petrol on Thursday night while in fourth place, and Jordanian champion Issa Halaby who was lying third yesterday when his Ford Sierra RS Cosworth broke down.

Provisional results:

1. Mohammed Bin Sulayem (UAE) Winston Toyota Celica GT-4, 3 hrs 35 mins.
2. Suhail Khalifa (UAE) Mitsubishi Galant VR4, 3:39:11.
3. Mamdouh Khayal (Saudi) Mitsubishi Galant VR4, 4:08:57.
4. Michel Saleh (Lebanon) Range Rover, 4:10:19.
5. Naser Bustami (Jordan), 4:26:20.

Baggio sold for \$21m

FLORENCE, Italy, May 18, (AP): Hundreds of angry Fiorentina fans threw rocks and shot fireworks at the headquarters of the Florence soccer club to express their outrage at the sale of star midfielder Roberto Baggio to Juventus of Turin.

Fiorentina will reportedly receive 25 billion lire (\$21 million) for the gifted 23-year-old, the highest amount ever paid for any player in Italy. The previous record was Napoli's 13 billion lire (\$10 million) purchase of Argentine midfielder Diego Maradona from Barcelona of Spain in 1984.

Baggio, who scored 17 goals this year to finish second behind Milan's Dutch striker Marco van Basten, will earn 1.7 billion lire (\$1.4 million) per year, along with a villa and a car, according to press reports.

The Fiorentina fans, irate at the sale of their star player to Fiorentina's historical rival Juventus, swarmed last night into Piazza Donatello, the site of club headquarters, pelting the building with stones and shouting slogans against Fiorentina owner Flavio Calisto Pontello.



Roberto Baggio

Elliott runs year's fastest 800 metres



Peter Elliott

SANTANDER, Spain, May 18, (Reuters): Olympic champions Paul Ereng and Julius Kariuki of Kenya were surprise losers in the 1,000-metre and 3,000-metre events at the Santander outdoor athletics meeting last night.

But Briton Peter Elliott's excellent performance in the 800 metres helped make up for the Kenyans' disappointing results and for the last minute pull-out of Moroccan star Said Aouita.

Elliott dominated from the start and romped home in one minute 45.20 seconds, the fastest time this year on the distance.

Kariuki, Olympic 3,000 metres steeplechase gold medalist, was widely expected to win the 3,000 metres after a leg injury forced Aouita to stay away.

He took an early lead but struggled in third after losing ground to Mark Rowland of Britain and Spain's Abel Anton in the last 50 metres.

Ereng, the Olympic 800 metres gold medalist, also finished a lacklustre third in the 1,000 metres behind fellow-Kenyan Jackson Lokol and Briton John Gladwin.

Nigeria's Yussuf Ali, expected to win the long jump, had to be content with second place in 7.91 metres behind Spaniard Angel Hernandez's 7.94 metres.

Jamaica's Merlene Ottey won the women's 100 metres in apparently effortless style, beating Sandra

Myers and Cristina Castro of Spain. Briton Beverley Nicholson's showed her superiority in the mile. She finished in four minutes 45.45 seconds, a good seven seconds faster than second placed Alejandra Ramos of Spain.

Olympic champions Peter Rono of Kenya and Ibrahim Boutayeb of Morocco head an impressive entry for the first Grand Prix athletics meeting of the season at Sao Paulo's thiropuera Stadium on Sunday.

Organisers said Cuba's men's high jump world record holder Javier Sotomayor and top women's middle distance runner Ana Quiros were also expected.

Boutayeb, who took the 10,000 metres gold medal in the Seoul Olympics, said he was going to dedicate himself more to the 5,000 metres this season.

His competitors in Sao Paulo include the two Kenyans Peter Koech, world record holder for the 3,000 metres steeplechase, and Charles Cheruiyot.

Rono is firm favourite in the 1,500 metres. Joaquim Cruz, 1984 Olympic champion but silver medalist in Seoul, has returned to his native Brazil from San Diego to compete in the 800 metres.

The United States is providing a tough field in the 400 metres with Danny Harris and Kevin Young up against Olympic silver medalist Amadou Dia Ba of Senegal.

Douglas set to face King in courtroom

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 18, (AP): Having already won the heavyweight championship in the ring, James "Buster" Douglas will be looking for another lucrative victory next week when he takes on promoter Don King in a Las Vegas courtroom.

Douglas and his manager, John Johnson, filed suit in Nevada Feb 21, seeking to void a contract the fighter signed with King 18 months ago.

Douglas' suit contends that the contract is invalid because King did not act in Douglas' best interests when the promoter protested Douglas' victory over Mike Tyson Feb 10, in Tokyo.

Tyson and King filed a protest on the basis of a "long count" that saved Douglas at the bell two rounds before he knocked out Tyson in the 10th. They later withdrew the protest.



Douglas taking on Don King

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Top defender

NEW YORK, May 18, (Reuters): Detroit Pistons forward Dennis Rodman, who earlier this month was named National Basketball Association Defensive Player of the Year, was top vote-getter for the 1990 NBA All-defensive team, the League announced yesterday.

Brazilian striker

AMSTERDAM, May 18, (Reuters): Brazilian striker Romario has signed a new contract which will keep him with PSV Eindhoven until 1994. PSV general manager Kees Ploegman said today.

Romanian squad

BRUSSELS, May 18, (Reuters): Romanian coach Emerich Jenei has brought 1989 Golden Boot winner Dorin Mateut back into the national squad for the country's last match before the World Cup finals next month.

\$2m goalkeeper

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): David Seaman became British soccer's most expensive goalkeeper on Wednesday when he joined Arsenal for £1.3 million (\$2.08 million).

\$105,000 bonus

BRUSSELS, May 18, (Reuters): Belgium's World Cup soccer squad have been promised \$105,000 each if they win the trophy, national coach Guy Thys said yesterday.

'Boring' Cup

MALENTE, West Germany, May 18, (Reuters): Most of next month's World Cup soccer matches will be boring, according to one veteran who will be taking part for the third time. "There won't be many good games there," 30-year-old West German midfielder Pierre Littbarski said.

Fach out

MALENTE, West Germany, May 18, (Reuters): Midfielder Holger Fach has been forced out of the West German World Cup soccer squad because of a nagging knee injury, coach Franz Beckenbauer said yesterday.

Soviet player

IPSWICH, England, May 18, (Reuters): Ipswich Town have decided not to renew the contract of former Soviet international Sergei Balachov, the first Soviet soccer star to play for an English League side.

French champions

MARSEILLE, France, May 18, (Reuters): French champions Marseille said yesterday they have signed striker Eric Lata from Sochaux for an undisclosed fee.

Cup turf

ROME, May 18, (Reuters): The turf of Rome's Olympic soccer stadium will be dug up and sold to souvenir hunters after the July 8 World Cup final.

England manager

LONDON, May 18, (UPI): English soccer manager Bobby Robson yesterday denied newspaper reports that he planned to leave England after the World Cup finals to take the helm of Dutch club PSV Eindhoven next season.

Epic rematch

DUBLIN, May 18, (Reuters): Tired and Machiavellian, principal contenders in the English 2,000 guineas, are set for an epic rematch in tomorrow's final 2,000 guineas that may decide who is the best miler in Europe.

Welsh players

WINDHOEK, May 18, (Reuters): Three Welsh Rugby Union players had to sign public declarations supporting the United Nations sports boycott of South Africa before being allowed off the tarmac on arrival at Windhoek Airport today.

Fight cancelled

SYDNEY, Australia, May 18, (AP): WBC junior-middleweight champion John David Jackson's title defense against Australian Troy Waters has been cancelled after the challenger suffered a broken jaw and cuts in a car crash, a promoter said today.

Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, May 18, (UPI): A measles outbreak in Washington may prompt a world-wide alert for participants and spectators travelling to the state for the Goodwill Games this summer, health officials said yesterday.

Pryor triumphs

MADISON, Wisconsin, May 18, (AP): Aaron Pryor, the former junior welterweight champion, returned to boxing for the first time in 17 months and knocked out Darryl Jones at 1:15 of the third round, ending a day which saw the fight cancelled and rescheduled.

Thomas Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 18, (AP): Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday offered a house and car to each member of Malaysia's national badminton team if it wins the Thomas Cup, the sport's most prestigious team competition.